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Handyman

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for furniture

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Upgrade your **DOORS**

- How to install a jamb
- Fit a handle & hardware

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The self-watering garden

Asian greens: simple!

BATHROOM

17 *makeovers*
**CLEVER TRICKS
TO ADD LUXURY**

**BEST
READERS'
PROJECTS**
WIN \$300
page 81

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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APRIL ISSUE



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THIS ISSUE



MORE INSPIRATION

Renovating the bathroom and need inspiration? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next DIY project.

Check out the Handyman boards at pinterest.com/diyhandyman or scan this code with your phone.





EDITOR'S LETTER

The personality of any room can be changed completely by the style of the interior door. It's amazing what a difference it makes.

In this issue, there's a buyer's guide to new interior doors, on page 48, plus how to replace a damaged or worn-out door, on page 52, and install a handle in three easy steps, on page 56.

Preparing for winter

Autumn is upon us, so it's time to venture back into the vegie garden and get it ready for winter.

On page 101, we show you how to clear out beds, plus refresh and prepare the soil to sow seeds for winter crops.



FRANK AND GUN



Farewell Frank and Gun

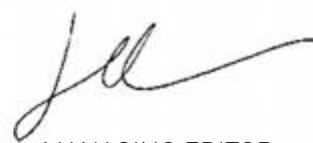
This month, we're saying goodbye to Technical editor Frank Gardner and Technical subeditor Gun Arvidssen.

Frank has been at *Handyman* for 11 years, and the number of projects he's produced is phenomenal. His knowledge of everything from building to landscaping is second to none.

He is retiring to spend time with his lovely wife Janice. Luckily for us, he'll still be casting his keen eye over stories to ensure a continuation of the quality and accuracy of our projects.

Gun is going to work on other projects he has underway. He's been with us for five years and has created and subedited many projects with his incredible accuracy barometer in full focus. They've set the bar high for our team in future issues.

Happy DIYing



MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

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HANDY STUFF



Colour pop

Add a splash of colour to the front porch with the bright red Moda Moderna Cache Pot, about \$7. This polypropylene planter is lightweight, looks great and measures 180 x 160 x 180mm. It's both UV and frost resistant.

bunnings.co.nz

Mail it

Stand out in the street with the Sandeford Malibu Timber Panel Letterbox, \$299, from Bunnings.

It has a newspaper slot, can take envelopes up to A4 in size and is easy to install.



Light the way

Guide guests to your door with a Brilliant Jordan 32-LED Exterior Up/Down Light, \$80. This sleekly styled and durable light has crystal glass prism lenses fitted into a stainless steel case.

brilliantlighting.com.au



KERB APPEAL

Bring the outside of your home back to life without breaking the budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Update the exterior of your home with a few easy cosmetic touches.

Step up

Plan a pathway with WestStone Waterworn 30-50cm Schist Steppers, \$16 each (weststone.co.nz).

With their neutral colour palette, they can be used for entertaining areas, paths, courtyards and stepping stones for a timeless, weather-worn look.



Slick it on

Brighten up the house with Dulux Roof & Trim Semi Gloss, \$195 for 10L. It resists dirt and stains, has UV protection, a 15-year guarantee and can be brushed, rolled or sprayed on.

dulux.co.nz





Steel style

Bring the breeze inside and stay safe with the Bastion Classic Screen Door, \$215. Measuring 1980 x 860mm, it has a steel frame and a flyscreen to keep out pests, large and small.

hartman.com.au



Swing through

Put the final touch to your new fence with a MLC Deluxe Wooden Picket Gate, about \$178 (mlcgroup.co.nz). It's pre-nailed and ready to install, all you have to do is attach hinges and a latch. Suitable for painting, clear-coat sealing or an oiled finish, it's made of H3.2 treated pine and measures 1800 x 970mm.



Open up

Get both security and light in your home with the Hume Newington XN5 Entrance Door, about \$626 glazed. It's a solid construction door, but it allows light in through the four glass panels. You can either paint or stain the door.

doors.co.nz



A new door or fence can add style and security to your home.

Pick it right

Get creative with your fencing using MLC Colonial 900mm Fence Pickets, about \$3 each (mlcgroup.co.nz). They're made of pine treated to H3.2 specifications for long-lasting fences.



Fence facelift

Bring an old fence back to life with British Paints Fence Finish, \$39 for 10L. The paint is water-based for an easy clean-up and can be used on sawn timber, pine pickets and lattice.

britishpaints.co.nz





Make it easy for guests to announce their arrival with quick additions to the entrance.

Ditch dirt

Forever cleaning your floor? Lay an Arrow Mats Printed Coir Mat, \$13, by the door. Available in three designs, it has a PVC backing and natural coir fibres to scrape dirt off shoes. To clean, just shake or hose it down.

arrowmats.co.nz



Lamp look

For a traditional style at your front entrance, install an Arlec Colonial Coach Light, \$49. It's activated by an adjustable sensor that will detect movement up to 12m away. The classic black metal body is enhanced with bevelled glass panels.

arlec.com.au



In chime

You'll never leave your guests out in the cold with the Arlec Portable Remote Control Door Chime, \$37 (arlec.com.au). With no wiring required, it's easy to install and has two chime tones. It uses two C-sized batteries, which aren't included.



Bird watch

Give your visitors a bit of a hoot as well as help in finding their way up the path with the Solarise Morepork Solar Garden Light, \$20. This cute bird stands 17cm high, is solar powered and doesn't need assembly. Just place it in the garden and it will light the way at night.

bunnings.co.nz



Boot scoot

No more fussing over muddy boots and shoes with the Arrow Mats Brush Step Mat, \$20 (arrowmats.co.nz). Measuring 60 x 40cm, it is specially designed to remove mud or other mess from footwear. The tough coir bristles and galvanised wire webbing make it durable and allow dirt to fall through, so it's easy to clean by shaking or hosing.

Available at Bunnings

What's new

Check out our autumn collection of products that will help you get set for the cooler months ahead.



JUST LIKE THE REAL THING The look of real wood floors with the benefits of laminate. Harris Wood 13mm thick Bamboo Laminate Flooring is strand woven and simply clicks together. Rated residential. \$70/M².



LIGHTEN UP A DULL DAY Arlec Wled 230 LED Tripod Worklight. 2x 20W LED lamps for a powerful, energy saving worklight. 120 degrees light spread, adjustable head and 1.8m cord. IP44 water resistant. Unbeatable price. \$99.



YOU'D BE BATS NOT TO HAVE ONE Stand it. Hang it. Fold it. The go anywhere Click LED Batlight has 80 LED energy saving lights to give you a powerful worklight. \$29.98.



LET THERE BE LIGHT The Ryobi ONE+ Hybrid 20W LED Work Light with multiple hanging options, 360° rotating head, 1700+ lumen high intensity LED to illuminate large work areas. \$129.



POWER UP YOUR WORKSHOP The Ryobi ONE+ system delivers the highest capacity DIY 18V battery in the market. 5.0Ah Lithium+ Battery Twin Pack. \$249.



STACKS OF STORAGE Connect two Tactic Toolboxes together for easy storage. Comes with wheels for mobility. \$99.



Extend your outdoor season

Enjoy outdoor living a little longer with a wide choice of patio heaters to take the chill off those cooler autumn evenings.



JUMBUCK OUTDOOR ELECTRIC 2000W QUARTZ HEATER

Simply pull the cord for 3 levels of heat. Lamp life of 1000 hours. Includes wall mounting bracket and stand. \$89.

JUMBUCK PATIO AREA HEATER

Durable powder-coated steel, tilt switch and flame failure device. \$199.

BRAZIER WITH GRILL PLATE

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MORE EFFICIENT HEATING Up to 8 times more efficient than equivalent oil column heaters, Dimplex Oil-Free Eco Column Heaters are available in 1kW and 2.4kW. \$78/\$147.

THE HEATSTRIP RANGE Warm up chilly late summer evenings with the economical Heatstrip range of outdoor heaters. These modern designs are suitable for all situations and are economical to run.



OVERHEAD HEATERS Discreet, minimalist design with no glow. Available in 3 sizes. 1800W \$749, 2400W \$897, 3200W \$998.



2400W MAX INFRARED This high output radiant heater is hard to beat for hard to heat outdoor situations. \$978.



HEATER ACC CONTROL

Optional wall controller for the Heatstrip range of heaters features simple On/Off control with LED Indicator, temperature control and automatic timer. Suitable for controlling multiple heaters. \$249



IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE

The Foreno Sprint Sink Mixer has the latest soft squared edge look, swivel spout and is Watermark and Codemark certified. Suitable for all water pressures above 35kpa. \$189.



CAST STONE FIRE PIT Features cast stone base, steel fire bowl, charcoal grid and poker. It also includes a dome shaped screen protector for improved safety. \$269.



Luxury design

Create a bathroom sanctuary around a freestanding tub

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Warm up a bathroom with pure white fixtures using timber surfaces.



The best time to add resort-style luxury to a bathroom is when planning a reno, and designing the space around a freestanding tub creates a relaxing sanctuary.

The aim is to create a serene space you can escape to at the end of a long day to indulge in a soak.

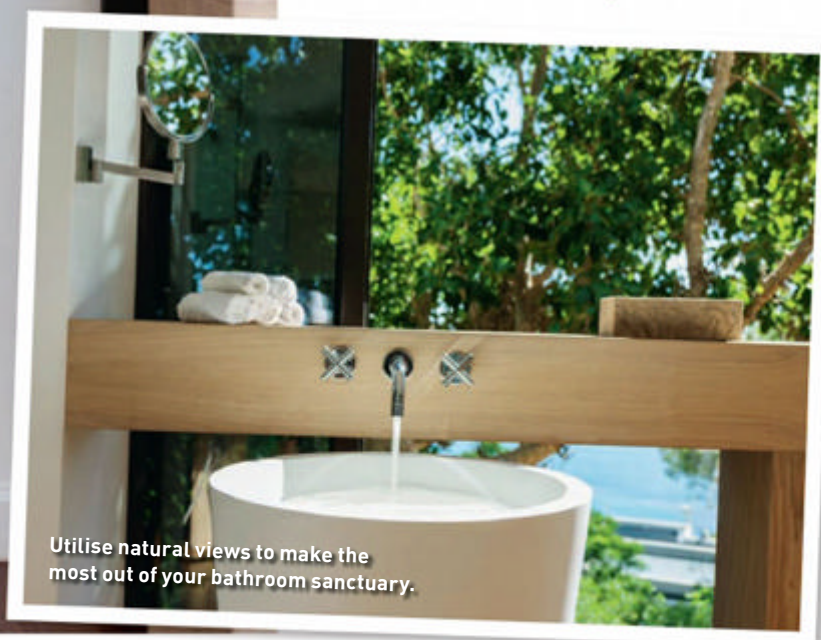
Freestanding bathtubs can be used as a centrepiece or positioned near a wall, where they will still catch the eye more than built-in baths.

Because they can dominate the bathroom visually, these types of tubs won't work in very small spaces.

Choose a shape and type of tub to suit the style of the bathroom from modern minimalist to country chic.

The fixtures, like the toilet and sink, should reinforce the look. Go for surfaces like timber, stone and glass.

Natural light and leafy views are essential components of a spa-like space, so add skylights, floor-to-ceiling windows and big mirrors. ➤



Utilise natural views to make the most out of your bathroom sanctuary.



Give a freestanding tub a dramatic black feature wall as a backdrop.

Monochrome marvels

White is commonly used in bathroom design as it makes a space appear clean and unblemished.

Contrasting white tiles and fixtures with black elements makes a statement that this is a modern and streamlined space.

Monochrome bathrooms have a timeless style and spa-like ambience.

A black-and-white scheme creates a clear canvas that allows the shapely lines of a bathtub to dominate.

Using black in a bathroom is a bold decorating choice, so the key is to not let it overpower the space.

Keep the walls, fixtures and floor tiles white, limiting black to a feature wall, the shower recess or cabinets.

When designing a monochrome bathroom, abundant lighting is a must to prevent the space looking cold and inhospitable.

If no natural light is available, use bright downlights above the vanity and softer feature lights for the tub. ➤



Black and white creates the look of a high-end hotel bathroom.

PICTURES ALAMY

Lifting the lid on choosing a toilet

While they often look similar, many toilet suites don't deliver on what you actually need: ease-of-use combined with quality that lasts.

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Wooden wonder

A new trend in bathrooms is the wet room, which combines the shower and bathroom into the same space. When utilised with an overhead rain shower, this gives a resort-like feel.

Depending on the space, costs may be lower as a shower enclosure won't need to be built, leaving more room in your budget for premium features like the timber wall panels and flooring used in this bathroom.

And while the entire area needs to be waterproofed, the main benefit of a wet room is that the space that would have been used for a shower recess can instead house a luxurious bathtub. >

This narrow wet room still manages to fit both a shower and bathtub.



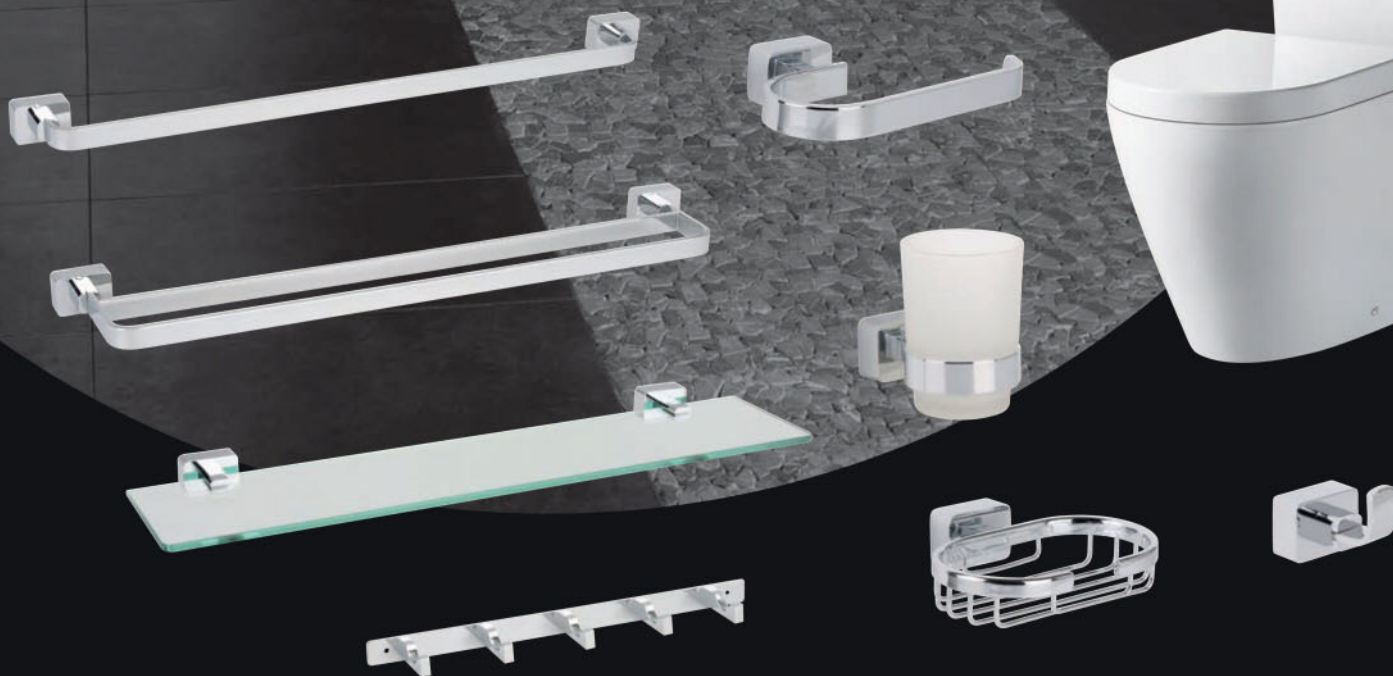
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White walls, rich timber and natural finishes are country-look essentials.

Country charm

The rustic look works very well in bathrooms in older homes. Warm white walls are offset by timber and other natural finishes and materials.

To perfect the country look, install a traditional clawfoot bath with old-fashioned tap fittings in the centre of the room.

If you can't fit a freestanding tub, create a peaceful space around a bath surround using quaint accessories.

While white is the dominant colour for the walls, dark tiles can create a striking monochrome effect. Lay black and white tiles in a pattern to further reinforce the style.

Timber is ideal for benchtops, and door and window frames. Use other natural materials like wicker for storage baskets or a clothes hamper.

Keep a country-style bathroom bright and cheerful with framed artwork and photos. Flowers, candles and towels will add functional decorations to the room. ➤





Soften the lines of a modern bathroom using indoor plants.

Choosing bathroom plants

Indoor plants that can tolerate low light and a moist environment, such as ferns, are ideal for bathrooms.



PICTURES ALAMY, THINKSTOCK



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XPRESSIONS bathroom accessories





Bring colour to a dark-tiled room using towels and accessories.

Accessories and storage

It's no use having a beautiful bathroom if it's always a mess, so any renovation must take your storage needs into account to keep the space tidy and organised.

A vanity cupboard with drawers or a medicine cabinet are the most common options, but there are lots of other solutions to bathroom storage.

Utilise vertical space by opting for a wall-hung vanity with shelves underneath. Line them with baskets for toiletries and towels, using bright colours for a modern look or natural fibres like wicker for a traditional feel.

Spare towels can also be folded or rolled and tucked into pigeon holes.

Trolleys on castors are a sleek solution for decorative items and have the added bonus of being portable.

For soap and toothbrushes, you can maintain the minimalist look by attaching metal holders to the wall with suction cups or adhesive.



Keep a busy bathroom tidy with plenty of storage.



Everloc Solutions Dental Station, \$35. everloc.com.au



Everloc Solutions Toilet Roll Holder, \$50.

His vs hers dream bathrooms

Wouldn't it be nice to have a bathroom all to yourself? A UK online bathroom retailer has conducted research to discover just what men and women really want in a dream bathroom. The guys wanted gadgets, glass walls and neon lights, plus a sunken bath from which to watch the multimedia plasma TV. The girls were after a more classically styled and relaxing space with a freestanding bathtub and walk-through rain shower.



His



Hers



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Q

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A

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RRP\$129



Sprint Basin Mixer
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RRP\$159

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Open space and quality fittings make a bathroom easier to use at peak hour.

Dream bathroom

Start your renovation with a solid plan to get the designer space you've always wanted

A great way to make a home more liveable and add value is to renovate the bathroom.

Designing it DIY makes your money go further, leaving extra room in the budget for luxury fixtures.

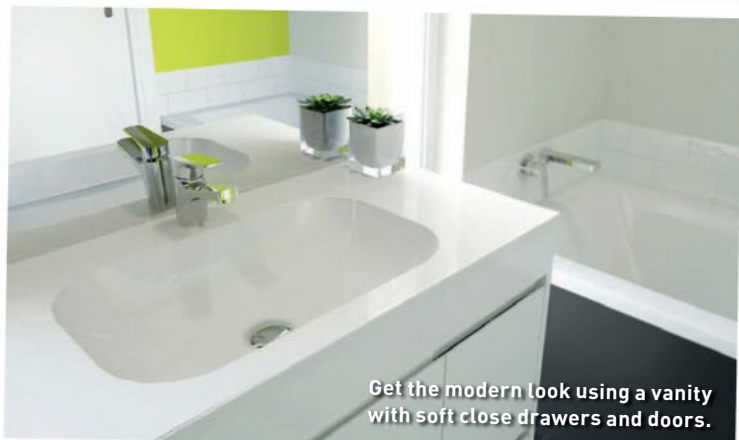
Take time to plan your renovation to avoid having to remodel again a few

years down the track. Decide what features you need and think about future lifestyle or family change.

Measure the space and design the bathroom on paper, experimenting with different layouts. Keep in mind that using existing plumbing will reduce overall renovation costs.

If space is an issue, prioritise the changes that make the biggest impact, both practically and visually, and think about storage and natural light.

Adding a shower or bathtub can transform the room, but be sure about your decision, as the money and space can be used for other features. ➤



Get the modern look using a vanity with soft close drawers and doors.



Consider windows and natural light when designing the layout.

Set your budget

Once you have a layout on paper, work out the cost of a full renovation compared to a cosmetic update and determine what you can afford.

If your bathroom has good bones, you can make an instant impact by replacing the vanity and fittings.

Estimate how much you can save with DIY and decide what you'll need a tradie for. Remember, all plumbing and most electrical work must be done by a qualified professional.

Focus on quality

To get the most value and the biggest impact from your reno, choose the best quality products you can afford to get a designer look and maintain that wow factor for years to come.

Throughout the reno, take a step back and look at the project as a whole to make sure you're happy. Changes made early on will cost much less than once the renovation is complete.



Contrast light-coloured tiles with dark timber finishes for a contemporary look.



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Install a compact bathroom vanity

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A floating vanity is installed on the wall to free up floor space in a small bathroom. Buying a pre-assembled frame makes it easy for the DIYer to update the bathroom while saving money.

Buy the tapware, basin, mirror and accessories separately, and arrange for a plumber to connect the services and install the tap.

The benchtop can be attached to the cabinet using Selleys Liquid Nails.

Ensure that sufficient time is allowed for the adhesive to cure before attaching plumbing fixtures.

TIP Lightly mark the centre of the benchtop under the front edge to ensure it is sitting centred.

Easy to hang ▼

Conciso vanities, available at Bunnings, come fully assembled and need only metal brackets to be attached for easy hanging.



Two adjustable brackets are pre-fitted on the cabinet casing.



The cabinet brackets slip into two brackets fixed to the wall.



Use a stud finder to locate the wall studs before fixing the brackets.



Conciso Imola 750mm
Wall Hung Vanity, \$395.



Conciso Imola 1200mm
Wall Hung Vanity, \$699.

Cabinet installation

1 LOCATE THE WALL STUDS
then measure up 755mm from the floor and mark a line indicating where the bottom of the two wall brackets will be positioned.

2 SECURE EACH WALL BRACKET
using the three screws provided. For a masonry wall, drill holes with a masonry bit and fit plastic wall plugs before securing the cabinet.

3 POSITION THE TWO BRACKETS
that are pre-fitted on the back of the cabinet to match the position of the two wall brackets. Carefully hang the cabinet on the wall brackets.



BRIGHTEN UP your bathroom with CONCISO

The Imola Range from Conciso is an essential addition to any home. Wall- and floor-mounted models allow you to choose the ideal setpiece for your bathroom, and with six colours to choose from (high-gloss white and five woodgrain Melteca Colours), you'll be able to suit any décor.

All products in the Imola Range feature a ceramic top with

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Just ask for “**Conciso Bathroomwares**” at your local Bunnings.



IMOLA 460 WALL – \$209

SKU: 00240784



IMOLA 460 FLOOR – \$219

SKU: 00240765



IMOLA 900 WALL – \$469

SKU: 00240797



IMOLA 1200 WALL – \$699

SKU: 00240800



IMOLA 750 FLOOR – \$409

SKU: 00240773

**tap not included*

Available at
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CONCISO
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Update your kitchen

Revamp the hub of the home to suit the size and style of your family

Ditching an outdated kitchen that's just not working for your family is as easy as replacing a tired, old benchtop or cabinets to bring it back to life.

Adding a kitchen island is a great idea, as it increases bench space, provides more storage options and creates a communal space.

Timeless elegance

Going with a neutral theme for pricey, fixed elements in a kitchen such as benchtops and cabinets gives you greater flexibility in style choices.

A neutral scheme makes it easy to create any type of look, from country to contemporary, and it won't scare off buyers if you ever want to sell. ➤



Kaboodle Infusion 1200mm Island Back Panel, about \$308. kaboodle.co.nz



Kaboodle 16mm Grip Knob Handle, \$4.



Alfresco living

Creating a home with a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living spaces is an entertainer's dream, especially if you go one step further and also extend the kitchen.

If installed under shelter and protected from the elements, kitchen cabinetry can be used outside.

On a covered deck or verandah, partner frosted glass cabinet doors with stainless steel, installing another sink in a large benchtop, and adding a bar fridge.

In the main kitchen, stacked slimline wall cabinets double storage space and have a minimalist aesthetic. Include lots of deep drawers with subtle handles in the base cabinetry.



Create an outdoor kitchen with Kaboodle 300mm Frosted Glass Doors, starting from about \$76 for a 300mm door, and Kaboodle 2400 x 600 x 35mm Bamboo Benchtop, \$599.



Stria[®]
CLADDING





Timeless style

Create a beach-inspired home with these secrets to coastal decorating.

WORDS TIM NEVE PICTURES JOHAN PALSSON

Set the table for a tropical feast, taking inspiration from the organic forms of exotic fruits and berries. Here the food cloches and covers in semicircular textured shells mimic fruit husks.

Above the striking driftwood chandelier, the vaulted ceiling is painted all white to emphasise the airy nature of this outdoor room, with the balcony giving canopy views into the lush vista beyond.

Maximise the proportions of a lengthy dining table by creating a fabric table runner, here in a geometric green pattern, that cascades onto the floor at each end.

Notice how the inclusion of a rug softens this outdoor space, its simple striped hues harmonising perfectly with the setting, as well as the mix-and-match cushions.

As a fresh final touch, some cut tropical leaves on the table bring the island jungle into the home. ➤



This open-sided space is a wonderful example of blending interior and exterior architecture.



Create an organic space with green accents and timber that invites you to relax under the bright blue sky.

Open house

Step up onto this alfresco lounge area, where the wood decking has been left untreated to age gracefully from exposure to the elements.

Overhead, a canopy is created from lengths of tree trunk that produce delightful shadows over the space, depending on the time of day and angle of the sun.

An ornate day bed beckons you to take an afternoon snooze. The carved wooden frame is suggestive of Balinese artisan markets where you might find one-of-a-kind treasures.

A bold splash of green on the inside of one shutter door breaks up any formality in the architecture of this building. Shutters help control ventilation and light into the home.

Seek out homewares and furnishings with an organic influence. Here, a green chevron-stripe pattern and palm-leaf motif add to the feeling of a tropical oasis. ➤



The circular design on the cushion, created with stitched-on sticks, mimics the low-hanging pendant.

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Natural selection

Light woods mix effortlessly with tropical greens in the interior of this beautiful home.

A vintage German teaching chart demonstrates a variety of ferns and sets the leafy tone, while the collection of seashells emphasises the coastal connection.

On the chair, a classic striped ticking fabric in green, rather than the more usual blue or red, mixes with a lattice-print linen cushion and a tactile ikat throw with worn fringing.

All the green tones here, from lime green to bottle green, create a pleasant spectrum, balanced by the gentle wood hues and the vintage-paper tone of the hanging fern wall chart. ➤



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Sliding louvre doors continue the appealing symmetry of the space and add to the impressive architecture.



Seek out vintage books with cover designs that suit the mood and colours of the room to use as accessories.

Island dreaming

This room just begs you to take an afternoon siesta, don't you think? The light wood tones and vivid yet soothing greens all add to the inviting feel.

A mosquito net over the bed creates a heavenly canopy, cascading onto a variety of soft linens.

The bed frame is impressive in scale, and the intricate carved wooden tile feature and whitewashed tone add to its hand-crafted appearance.

Just the inclusion of one cushion displaying a palm tree motif instantly transports the dreamy setting to a far-flung island. Taupe linens brought into the scheme balance the brighter colours.

A chandelier of wooden shards floats over the space, as if in homage to sea life. You could imagine it moving in the late afternoon coastal

breeze, bringing refreshing coolness to the balmy evening.

Sliding louvre doors are highly functional, creating privacy when closed, while allowing cooling sea breezes in through the panels.

A bamboo cloche is hung by knotted rope as a temporary bedside pendant.

The real purpose of such an item is to cover and protect delicate plant life, so it is ideal in this green-toned scheme.



TIM NEVE



This edited extract is from *Sandcastles: Interiors Inspired by the Coast* by Tim Neve (Murdoch Books, about \$54).

New

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FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Scour council clean-ups, garage sales and op-shops for hidden gems to upcycle

PROJECTS TRACY MARYON AND AMANDA SHAW

Far too much stuff is thrown away nowadays and takes up valuable space in landfill, so it makes sense to recycle what you can.

So before you cast off those items because they're looking a bit worse for wear, think again, as they can easily be given a new lease of life.

It'll save you money, too, because you won't have to replace them.

Need a new picnic hamper? Then get down that old wicker basket that's been gathering dust on the top of the kitchen cupboards and do it up.

Want a chair for the balcony? Dig out the tired-looking one that's been lying around in the garage forever.

Or consider checking out garage sales, markets, council clean-ups and op-shops for easy-to-revamp items.

This basket and folding chair were roadside finds. All it took to upcycle them was a quick wash and spray.

Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Key Lime was used for the basket and Brilliant Blue for the chair.

TIP When you're spraying, work in a well-ventilated area or outside on a still day and put down drop sheets. ➤



Turn a plain basket into a dazzling picnic hamper.



WORDS AND PICTURES AMANDA SHAW, TRACY MARVON

Create a spot to sit and read by brightening up a roadside find.

Table rescue

This cane table was in a sorry state when it was salvaged from a heap of sodden furniture on a roadside berm.

The paint had peeled off and it was covered with cracks and divots. The wicker around the legs was missing in places and the original top had been replaced with unsightly Perspex.

It almost looked beyond saving, but after a hose down, the damaged sections were filled and sanded, the missing wicker was replaced and the table was then primed and sprayed.

For a decorative finish, the top was covered with leftover wallpaper.

The cane magazine rack was a \$5 charity shop find and was simply sprayed the same colour as the table.



Dulux 1 Step Prepcoat Primer, Sealer & Undercoat, \$46 for 1L. dulux.co.nz



The revived table and magazine rack make an eye-catching pair.



1 Prepare the table

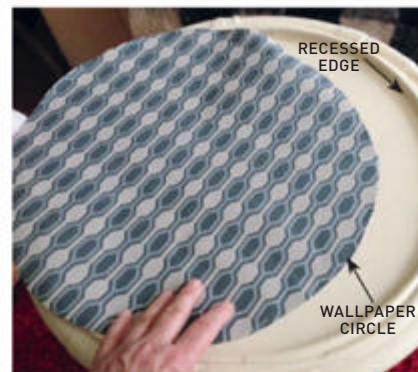
Wash the table with warm soapy water and let it dry. Repair any damage with timber filler and sand smooth all over with 180 grit abrasive paper. Remove the wicker wrapping from the base of the legs and use it to replace the missing wicker at the top by rewinding, then securing using a hot glue gun.



2 Apply the paint

Using a paintbrush, apply two coats of primer to ensure good coverage of the Perspex top and any damaged areas. Spray with two coats of paint, allowing it to dry completely in between coats.

TIP We used Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Ivory.



3 Decorate the top

Measure the diameter of the top from the edge of the recessed section, then make a template. Cut a piece of wallpaper to size, lay it pattern-side down on a flat surface and put the template on top. Draw around it with a pencil, cut out the wallpaper circle and secure using wallpaper paste.



New vibrant cushion covers transform this wicker armchair into a showpiece.

Armchair refresh

When spraying wicker, it's worth investing in a spray gun because it's easier and quicker, plus you'll get a better finish.

And it's bound to be used again, as you're sure to catch the recycling bug.

This chair cost \$20 at a garage sale, and all it took to spruce it up was a hose down, a coat of primer and a topcoat.

We chose a creamy shade to complement the new cushion covers.

The foam inserts from the old cushions were used as templates. The fabric was measured and cut, then the pieces sewn together, leaving the backs open. The foam was inserted into the covers and the backs were stitched closed. ➤



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Blade width: 63mm
Depth of cut: 42mm



44mm Bi-Metal Blade **Nail Buster Extreme**

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Blade width: 44mm
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A first amongst multi-tool blades, a bi-metal right angle blade with a 25mm depth of cut. Set at right angles, an excellent blade for cutting flooring underneath cabinets and many awkward places. Suitable for cutting wood with nails.

Cutting depth: 25mm
Blade width: 63mm
Depth of cut: 42mm



Painting with stripes

Salvaged during a council clean-up, a white plant stand showed the potential to be turned into a standout piece of furniture.

It was given a light sand all over with abrasive paper and painted in Dulux Morrinsville Quarter.

Stripes on the tabletop were created by masking with tape at

even intervals. A copper metallic acrylic paint was applied to the unmasked sections and the rims to accentuate the decorative features.

To protect the surface, it was given a coat of water-based varnish.

Another roadside find, the chair was sanded and the back and legs primed, then painted white.

A white plant stand is given stripes and teamed with a painted wheel-backed chair.



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the finishing touch



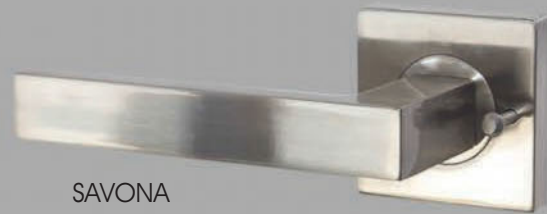
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A photograph of a modern house with a large, white, overhanging roof supported by dark wooden pillars. The house is set against a backdrop of palm trees and a sunset sky with soft, colorful clouds. In the foreground, there is a swimming pool reflecting the sky and the house. A wicker sofa is visible on the right side of the pool.

Door decisions

Make a great first impression with a unique entrance to your home

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

A designer door is an easy way to add character to a home, both inside and out. And with a vast range of styles, materials and hardware available, it's easy to find a door to complement your home.

Exterior doors need to be solid and durable to withstand rain, wind and heat, as well as provide security.

A front door is one of the most prominent features of a home, and a well-chosen one can set it apart from other houses on the street.

Keep it in sync with the rest of your decor, taking note of the age and style of the house. If you need inspiration, take a stroll through the local neighbourhood. >



This rich timber door stands out from its stone and glass surrounds.

Internal doors

An easy way to spruce up a room is to install a new door. The original internal ones can be quite ordinary, and replacing them with modern or classic doors can instantly improve the look of the house.

Timber doors provide an interesting texture that breaks up plain walls. They work equally well for old and new homes, with designs to suit any space.

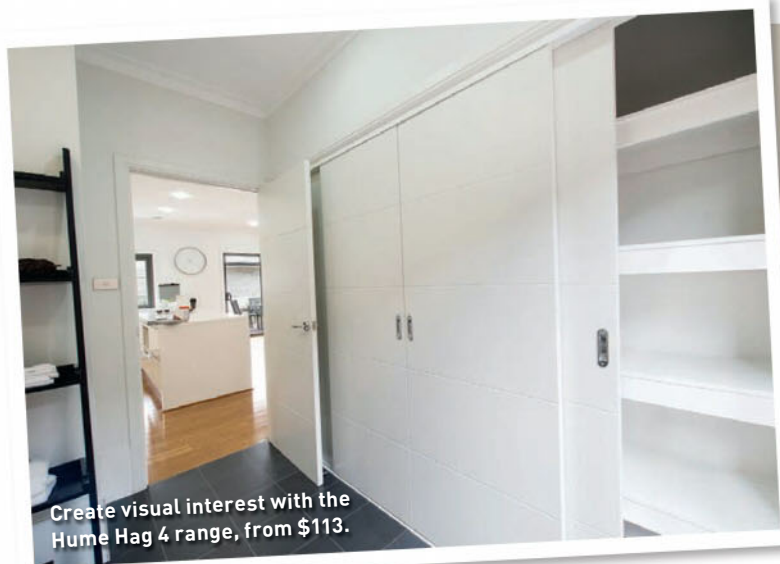
Hume Doors has a large range of European-inspired internal and external doors (doors.co.nz).



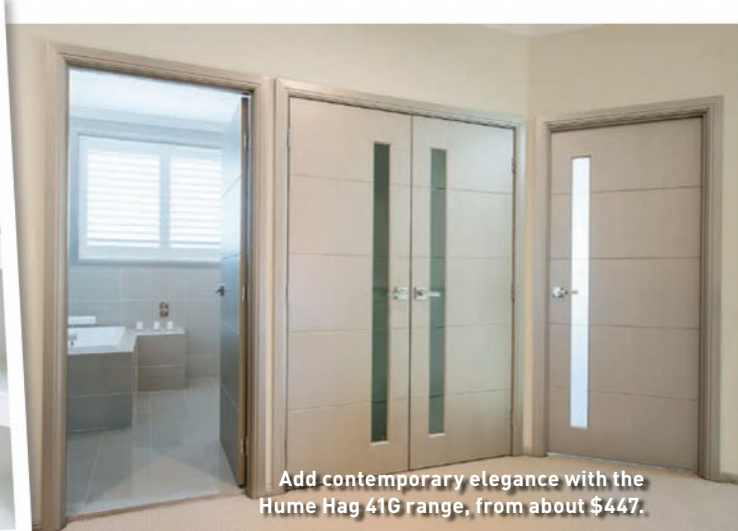
Modernise any space with the clean lines of the Hume Int 1 Light range, from \$756.



Give a room a touch of style with the Hume Sorento 5 range, from \$156.



Create visual interest with the Hume Hag 4 range, from \$113.



Add contemporary elegance with the Hume Hag 41G range, from about \$447.



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adorable style by **Hume**

EASY DOORWAY MAKEOVER

Replace an old internal door and give the entrance to a room a bright new look

PROJECT JOHN BOWLER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

There are lots of reasons you may need to hang a new internal door at your place.

A major renovation can change the layout of a home while building an extension can add doorways, creating the need for new doors.

Replacing old or mismatched doors is also an easy and affordable way to instantly refresh interior spaces, particularly if you're painting walls or updating floors.

Hanging a new door, including making the jamb and fitting the hardware, is a simple DIY project that can be completed in just one day.

Prehung doors with jambs are available, but buying a door and the jamb framing separately offers a greater variety of sizes and styles.

If you're installing a new jamb as well as a door, you will need to check the doorway studs for plumb, then measure the size of the opening to determine the door size.

For this project, we installed a hollow-core door and separate jamb.

Hollow-core internal doors have additional blocking inside one edge, identified by a sticker that marks where the lockset should be installed. ➤



EDL 100mm Fixed Pin Zinc Plated Butt Hinge, about \$5. edlfast.co.nz



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 20mm x 8g	Hinges
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Jamb
Bullethead nails, 65 x 3.25mm	Jamb
Bullethead brads, 40 x 2mm	Architrave

TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$204

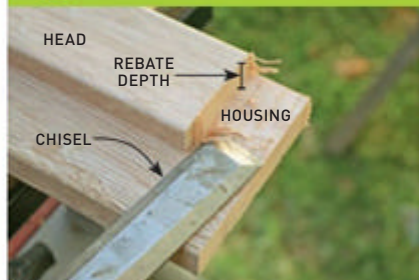
TOOLS DRILL, BRAD
NAILER, MITRESAW

Materials

Internal door	\$52
Single rebate jamb set	\$31
Colonial architrave	\$61
Hinges	\$10
Passage set	\$38
Screws	\$6
Bullethead nails	\$2
Brads	\$4
TOTAL	\$204

Spruce up the house after a paint job or add the finishing touch to a reno by hanging new internal doors.

Install a door and jamb



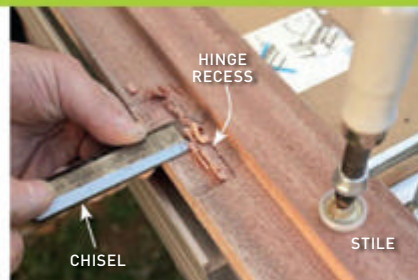
1 Make the jamb

Cut two stiles equal to the height of the door, plus 20mm clearance, and a head piece the width of the door, plus 46mm for two gaps and two stiles. Cut a housing to the rebate depth at each end of the head. Chisel out the waste.



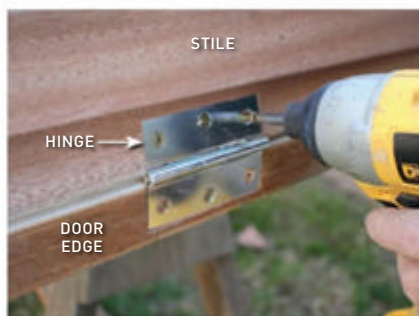
2 Set out the hinges

Mark hinge locations on the door, 200mm from the top and 250mm from the base. Transfer the locations to the stile, tracing around a hinge to mark each recess. Use a combination square to mark the depth of the recess.



3 Cut the hinge recesses

Mark the hinge recesses on the edge of the door 2mm narrower than on the jamb to stop the door from binding on the jamb. Use a sharp chisel to make relief cuts to the depth of each recess, then pare out the waste.



4 Attach the hinges

With the hinge in the door recess, drill a pilot hole towards the back of the hinge hole so the screw will pull the leaf tightly into the recess. Secure the hinge with a screw, check the clearance, then drive in the remaining screws.



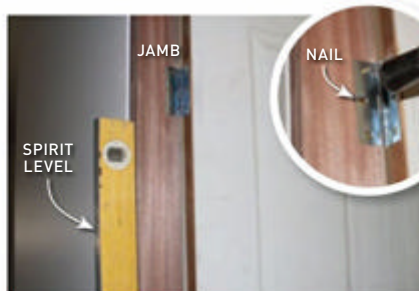
5 Assemble the jamb

On a pair of level sawhorses, assemble the jamb around the door and drill clearance holes through the head. Drill pilot holes into the stile ends and secure with screws, then check that the door opens smoothly.



6 Prepare the opening

Secure packers in the opening at the hinge locations, and equally spaced above and below, to correct for any studs that are out of plumb. Use a long spirit level to check for alignment and to ensure the top gap is consistent.



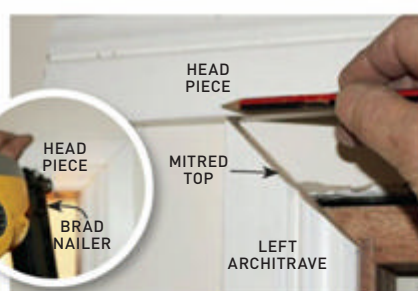
7 Secure the jamb

Position the jamb and align the hinge side with the wall cladding. Drive a single nail at the top packer, using a spirit level to plumb the jamb. Secure with nails through the packers, punching the heads below the surface.



8 Pack the lock side

Align the lock side of the jamb, using wedges to create a 3mm gap around the door. Attach the jamb with one nail, then close the door and check the gap. Move the wedges in or out to adjust, then secure the jamb with nails.



9 Add the architrave

Set the architrave 5mm back from the inside jamb face. Cut left and right architraves with mitred tops, securing with brads. Mark the head piece from the gap and cut to size, attaching with PVA adhesive and brads. ➤

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- Suit 38-50mm door thicknesses
- Adjustable 60 or 70mm backset

- No keys required
- Convenient and smart electronic security
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- Autolock Option



Product Code: 1317-BN
Description: Electronic Keypad
Deadbolt Lock and Remote
Finish: Brushed Nickel
Battery: Long life battery included
Key: Includes x 2
Bunnings Price: **\$286.34**
Bunnings Sku: 00248784



Product Code: 1319-BN
Description: Electronic Keypad
Deadbolt Lock
Finish: Brushed Nickel
Battery: Long life battery included
Key: Includes x 2
Bunnings Price: **\$221.46**
Bunnings Sku: 00248787

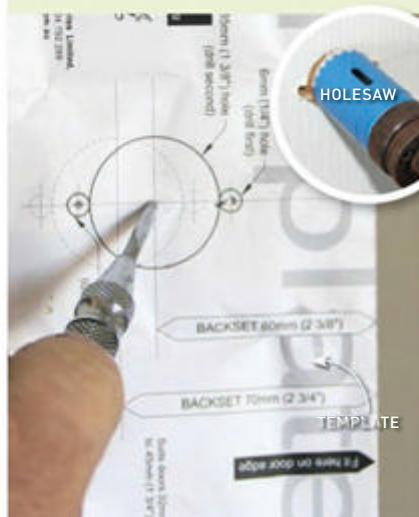
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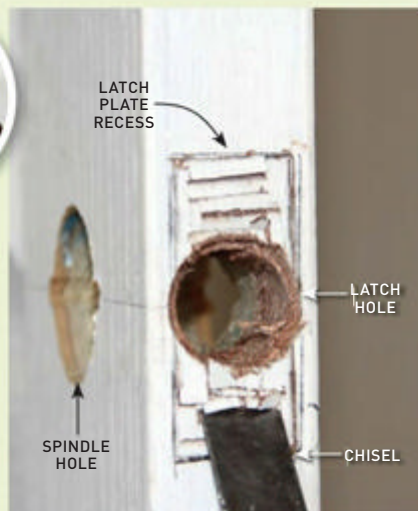
Fit a door handle ▼

After installing a new door, you will need to fit a latch and handle, collectively called door furniture. Whether you choose a passage set, or a privacy set with a locking function, it will normally include instructions and a fitting template.



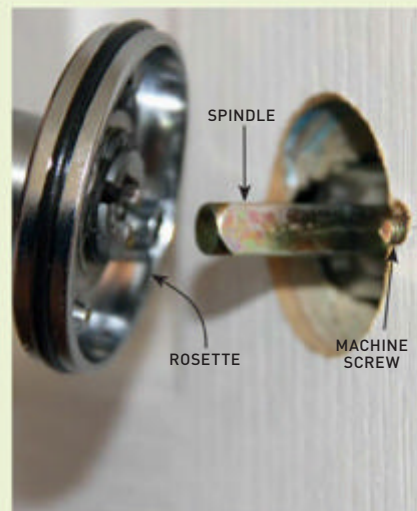
1 Drill the holes

Fold the template around the edge of the door to mark the hole locations. Use a spade bit to drill the 25mm latch hole, a twist bit for the 6mm rosette holes and a holesaw to bore the 35mm spindle hole.



2 Install the latch

Insert the latch and mark around the face plate, then chisel out a recess so it sits flush. Secure the latch, mark where it strikes the jamb and drill a corresponding 25mm hole. Chisel out a recess for the strike plate as before.



3 Attach the handle

Install the strike plate, then insert the spindle through the door. Put the handles on the spindle, attach the rosettes using machine screws, then tighten the grub screws in the handles. Replace the rosette covers.

Choosing door furniture



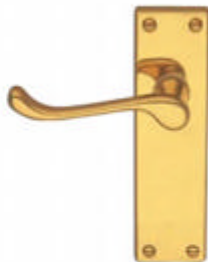
Sylvan Denver Passage Lever Set, about \$27.
sylvan.co.nz



Lockwood Velocity Privacy Set Spire Lever, about \$44.
assaabloy.co.nz



Schlage FE595 with Elan Lever, \$315.
allegion.co.nz



Windsor Belmont Lever Latch, \$96 for two.
windsorbrass.co.nz



Irwin Door Lock Installation Kit, about \$25.
irwintools.co.nz

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Welcome style.

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Ceiling refresh

Spruce up the largest surface in the room by repainting and adding new downlights and fans

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURE GEOFF BECK



Before



The ceiling in this 1980s house was showing its age and, during winter, a few of the glass panels around the fire in the living area were broken. This allowed smoke to escape and rise to the ceiling, which created sooty stains.

Halogen downlights were installed when the house was built and many weren't working. There was constant upkeep required replacing bulbs, not to mention ongoing costs.

Also, the ceiling in this living space was already fairly low and the timber and brass fans visually made it appear even lower.



After

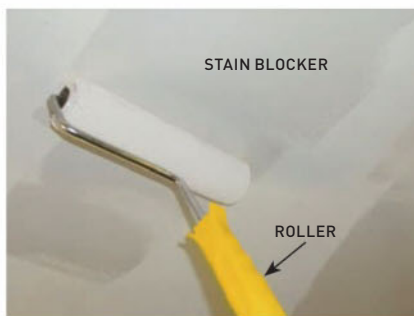
Stain-blocking paint and LED downlights were used to modernise this living space.



LONG-HANDLED BRUSH

1 Remove the stains

Scrub the smoke stains on the ceiling with a long-handled brush using white vinegar, then sugar soap, to cut the grease in the soot and remove the worst of the stains.



STAIN BLOCKER

ROLLER

2 Prepare the ceiling

Have an electrician remove the lights and fans, then repair any holes with plaster. Apply a coat of stain blocker with a roller to prevent residual stains leaching through to the topcoat.



LED DOWNLIGHT

3 Install new fittings

Apply 2-3 coats of good-quality ceiling paint over the stain blocker with a roller. Have an electrician install LED downlights and modern white ceiling fans to update the room. ➤

LED vs halogen lights

Electricity bills are one of the biggest household expenses, after the rent or mortgage. And surprisingly, lighting contributes to about 30% of that bill.

There is a significant difference in energy consumption between different types of lighting. This is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), with 1kWh being equal to a 1000W electrical appliance running for one hour.

LED bulbs have a power rating of 7-20W while halogen bulbs are rated anywhere from 35-500W. Halogens can use nine times the power to create the same amount of light.

In a house with 20 downlights, over five years, the electricity bill for halogens alone would be about \$4000 while LEDs would cost about \$750.

HALOGEN BULBS run electricity through a filament, which heats up and creates light. Ninety percent of the electricity used creates the heat while 10% creates light, making them less efficient than LED bulbs.

LED BULBS use small semiconductors rather than filaments to produce light. Eighty five percent of the energy is used to create light, so they stay cool and contribute less to household heat.

LIFE SPAN is also an important consideration, as halogen bulbs can last up to 2000 hours while LED bulbs have a life span of up to 50,000 hours. This means an LED bulb could last 25 times longer than a halogen one.



Halogens can use nine times more energy than LED bulbs to create the same light.

What you need

Restore a dingy ceiling by cleaning off stains, then painting it with stain blocker and ceiling paint. Replace any dated fans with new white models to create a sense of space and install energy-efficient LED downlights.



Zinsser Odorless Stain Blocker, \$119 for 3.75L.
haydn.co.nz



Dulux Light & Space Ceiling, \$160 for 10L.
dulux.co.nz



Arlec 140cm Aluminium High Velocity Three-blade Ceiling Fan, \$129. arlec.com.au



Philips 8W Warm White LED Dimmable Downlight, \$60. philips.co.nz

Philips bathroom lighting



Inspired by the beauty of water, the Philips Aquafit collection turns your bathroom into a rejuvenating experience.

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The range is specifically designed to be water-resistant in a wet and humid environment, without compromising on brightness or style. It is made from premium materials with high care for aesthetics, details and forms, and follows the most stringent international safety standards.

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HOW TO PAINT A CEILING

Get a professional finish when painting one of the trickiest surfaces in a home

They're usually much larger than a single wall and are often illuminated with raking light that accentuates even the smallest flaws, which means ceilings present some unique painting challenges.

Add to that the difficult task of working overhead and things can get messy in a hurry, so we've grilled a pro to help you get the best result.

Bill Nunn owns a company that specialises in painting older houses.

We've called on his 35 years of experience in the business to find out the best ways to paint a ceiling, so you get a top-quality finish every time. >



BILL NUNN



PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK

Paint a ceiling the easy way
with the help of an expert.



1 Use a good primer

Roof leaks, overflowing sinks and tobacco smoke can all leave ugly stains that are hard to conceal with regular ceiling paint.

Apply stain-blocking primer to cover any stubborn ceiling marks. Try Zinsser Smart Prime, which is formulated for this purpose and water-based for easy application.

Zinsser Smart Prime, \$119 for 3.78L. haydn.co.nz



2 Sand before painting

Over time, and as the layers of paint build up, lumps and bugs can get stuck to the ceiling.

On ceilings that aren't textured, start with a quick once-over, sanding with 100 grit abrasive paper. This helps ensure a perfectly smooth paint job and also increases paint bonding.

Use a sanding pole to make working easier, then wipe the ceiling afterwards with a damp sponge to remove the dust.



3 Cut in and then roll

Use a paintbrush to cut in at the edges of square-set ceilings. Doing this before you roll means the majority of the brush marks will be covered with the roller.

Carefully brush paint along the edge of the ceiling in 3m sections, then roll that section. This keeps the cut-in section wet until you roll, which allows the paint to blend in better.

Bill says it's also less boring to alternate between cutting in and rolling, making the task of painting a whole ceiling less tedious. ➤

- 1 Use **Monarch Mini Gap Filler** to fill any gaps before painting on surfaces such as door frames, skirting boards, windows and cornices. For a professional finish smooth over the gap filler using the **Monarch 3 in 1 caulking tool**.



- 2 Achieving a professional finish requires using a quality paint brush like the **Monarch Walls, Doors & Trim brush**. Soak your brush for 10 minutes in the recommended solvent before using to soften the filament which helps pick up and release paint better. This will enable you to cut straight lines easily, giving you more precision and control and no filament loss.



- 3 Use a quality roller for a professional finish. The **Monarch Razorback Walls & Ceiling Roller** applies paint easily giving a smooth even film to all walls and ceilings. Ensure you wash your roller before using to remove any loose fluff.



MONARCH®

Professional PAINTING Tips

- 4 There is a variety of **Monarch Drop Sheets** available for all your painting projects such as; professional canvas drop sheets, paperpoly and plastic. Use drop sheets around your home to protect floors and furniture.



- ✓ Wash down walls with sugar soap to ensure a clean surface before painting.
- ✓ Fill and sand any imperfection before painting for a professional finish.
- ✓ The key to getting a professional finish is using quality paint and quality brushes and rollers.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

1 Monarch Mini Gap Filler \$1.97; Monarch Mini Compact Caulking Gun \$6.98; Monarch 3 in 1 Caulking Tool \$4.25 2 Monarch Walls doors & Trim Brush 63mm \$19.98 3 Monarch Razorback 230mm 12mm Nap Roller Cover \$12.65 4 Monarch Plastic Drop Sheet \$4.75; Monarch 9' x 12' Paper Poly Drop sheet \$7.35; Monarch 9' x 12' Canvas Drop Sheet \$40.98





4 Roll in all directions

There are a few tricks to getting a smooth and consistent coat when applying paint to the ceiling.

Work in square sections about 2 x 2m, moving quickly from one section to the next to make sure the paint along the edge doesn't dry before you roll the next section.

Keeping a wet edge is the key to minimising overlap marks.

Bill also says you'll get the best coverage by immediately re-rolling each section at a right angle to your first roller direction as you go.

5 Purchase ceiling paint

As a general rule, you will achieve the best result by using paint that's specially formulated for ceiling application.

You need paint that doesn't spatter, dries slowly and is flat rather than glossy. Premium ceiling paints have added pigments to make the ceiling look brighter.

They can also be tinted if you don't want to stick to a white ceiling.



British Paints White Ceiling Paint, \$49 for 4L. britishpaints.co.nz



6 Overlap the edges onto the walls

If you also plan on painting the walls, overlap the paint onto them a little bit when cutting in. Then when you paint the walls, you will cover the overlap as you cut in to the ceiling at the top of the walls.

Some painters like to skip the overlapping and cutting-in steps and save time by mashing the roller into the corners instead.

Bill doesn't recommend this method as it's sloppy, builds up excess paint in the corners and can leave runs or a thick paint line on the wall. ➤

THE START...





7 Experiment with colour

While you may not want to paint your ceiling yellow, don't be afraid to deviate from a plain white surface.

Bill points out that painting the ceiling in a colour can make a small room seem bigger, or a room with a high ceiling appear cosier.

TIP For help with ceiling and wall colour choice, search online for examples of rooms you like.



8 Opt for simple accessories

When it comes to painting equipment, Bill prefers low-tech solutions.

You can buy extendable paint poles, but he suggests using simple timber broom handles with a thread because they are light, inexpensive and will get the job done.

9 Use a thick roller cover

Lambswool covers are the key to a good finish, and while more expensive, they're easy to clean and can be re-used.

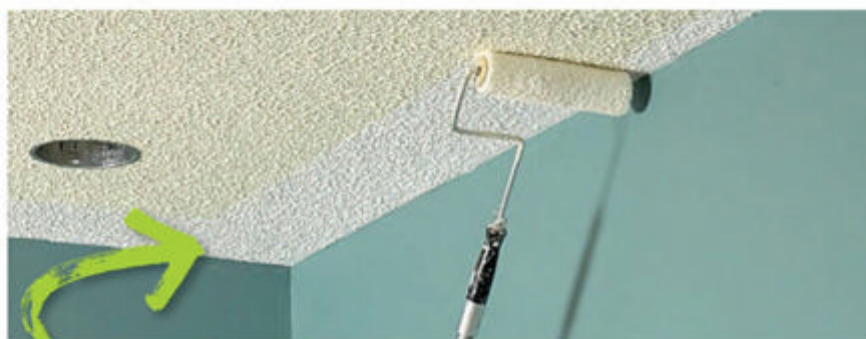
They are ideal for getting as much paint on the ceiling as possible in a short amount of time while minimising spatters.



LAMBSWOOL ROLLER



SYNTHETIC ROLLER



10 Go gently on textured ceilings

Painting a textured ceiling is tricky. If it has never been painted, the water in the paint can loosen the texture and cause it to fall off. Ceilings that have been painted are probably safe.

Try rolling paint onto a small section first and if the texture becomes

loose, painting the ceiling is risky and the necessary repairs will need to be carried out before painting.

Bill says the best tip for rolling on paint is to avoid overworking it. If the ceiling needs a second coat, wait for the first one to dry completely, then roll another perpendicular to the first.

TIP If possible, spray on the paint, as it's less likely to loosen the texture.

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WALL OF BOOKS

Transform an outdated space with French doors flanked by shelves

PROJECT DAVID RYAN **WORDS** FRANK GARDNER **MAIN PICTURE** GEOFF BECK

The best home layouts use space efficiently and provide plenty of storage. In this home, an unused fireplace and a 1970s-style timber panelled wall made the room look dated.

It was opened up by cutting a hole in the wall to install French doors, allowing natural light to enter the room and giving access to the garden.

Floor-to-ceiling shelves were then installed on either side of the doors to display books and ornaments, and provide storage for CDs and DVDs.

An overhead shelf completes the installation and gives the French doors a sense of depth with the bookcases painted to match.

The bookcases are built from MDF and trimmed with ribbed edging.

The measurements are easily adapted to suit the dimensions of any space around a door, as the simple design consists of two bookcases with an extra shelf mounted overhead.

The sides of the bookcase boxes are two layers of 18mm thick MDF, with

the overhead shelf supported between them on the doorway cover panels.

To ensure stability, secure the bookcases to the wall studs. Mark the stud positions on the walls, then transfer the locations to the bookcase battens. Drive screws through the top and centre battens into the wall studs.

Cut the parts using a circular saw and straightedge guide or have them cut by the supplier for a small fee.

Secure the shelf

Once the bookcases are built and secured in position, cut the overhead shelf to fit between them, supported on the shorter cover panels.

Secure the shelf with screws driven from inside the bookcases, then attach the overhead shelf sides using adhesive and screws. To finish, give the bookcases a built-in look by cladding the baseboards with skirting.

Cover the gaps between the bookcases and the ceiling using the same profile of moulding and mitre the corners to fit. ➤

TIME 3 DAYS
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$595

TOOLS CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL, ROUTER



PICTURE (INSET) GEOFF BECK



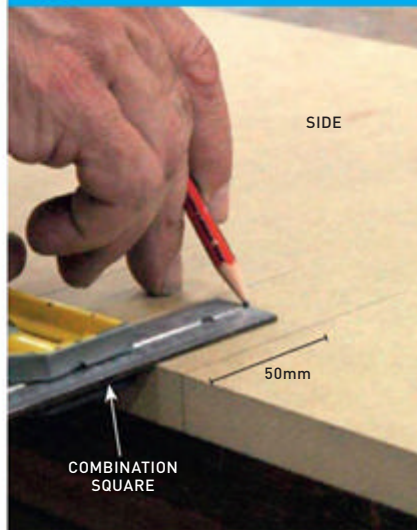
After

Installing French doors brightens the living space while shelves provide much-needed storage.



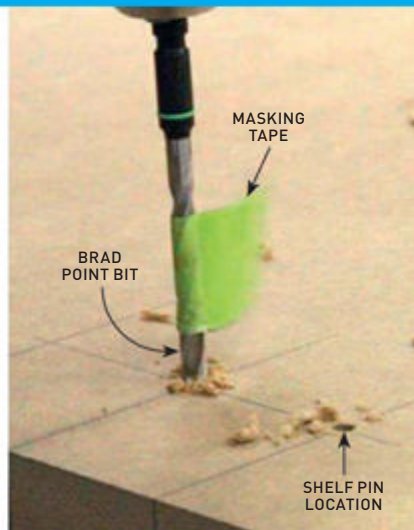
Before

▼ Build the bookcases



1 Mark the shelf positions

Position two sides face to face with all edges flush. Mark the shelf hole heights across the front edges, then square the lines across the inside faces. Set a combination square to 50mm and use it to mark the shelf pin centres, then repeat for the mullions.



2 Drill the shelf pin holes

Use a 5mm brad point bit to drill 10mm deep shelf pin holes at the intersections of the marked lines, using a depth collar or masking tape on the bit to ensure accuracy.

TIP Drill the shelf pin holes the whole way through the mullions.



3 Assemble the bookcases

Create a rounded profile on the front edges of the shelves using a router with a 6mm roundover bit. Position the top, base and fixed shelves between the sides, securing with interior PVA adhesive and screws through the pilot holes.



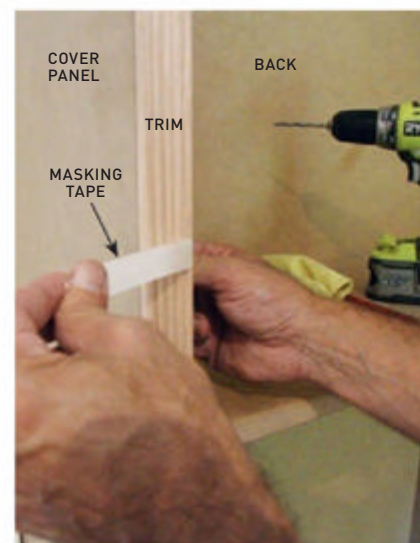
4 Secure the baseboards

Use adhesive and screws to secure the baseboards flush with the front edge of the bookcase base. Position the mullions between the bookcase base and fixed shelf and the bookcase top and fixed shelf, securing with adhesive and screws.



5 Attach the back

Secure the battens using screws, then attach the cover panels with screws driven from inside. Turn over the bookcases and use screws to attach the back panels to the top, sides, fixed shelves and mullions, working down one side, then across the top.

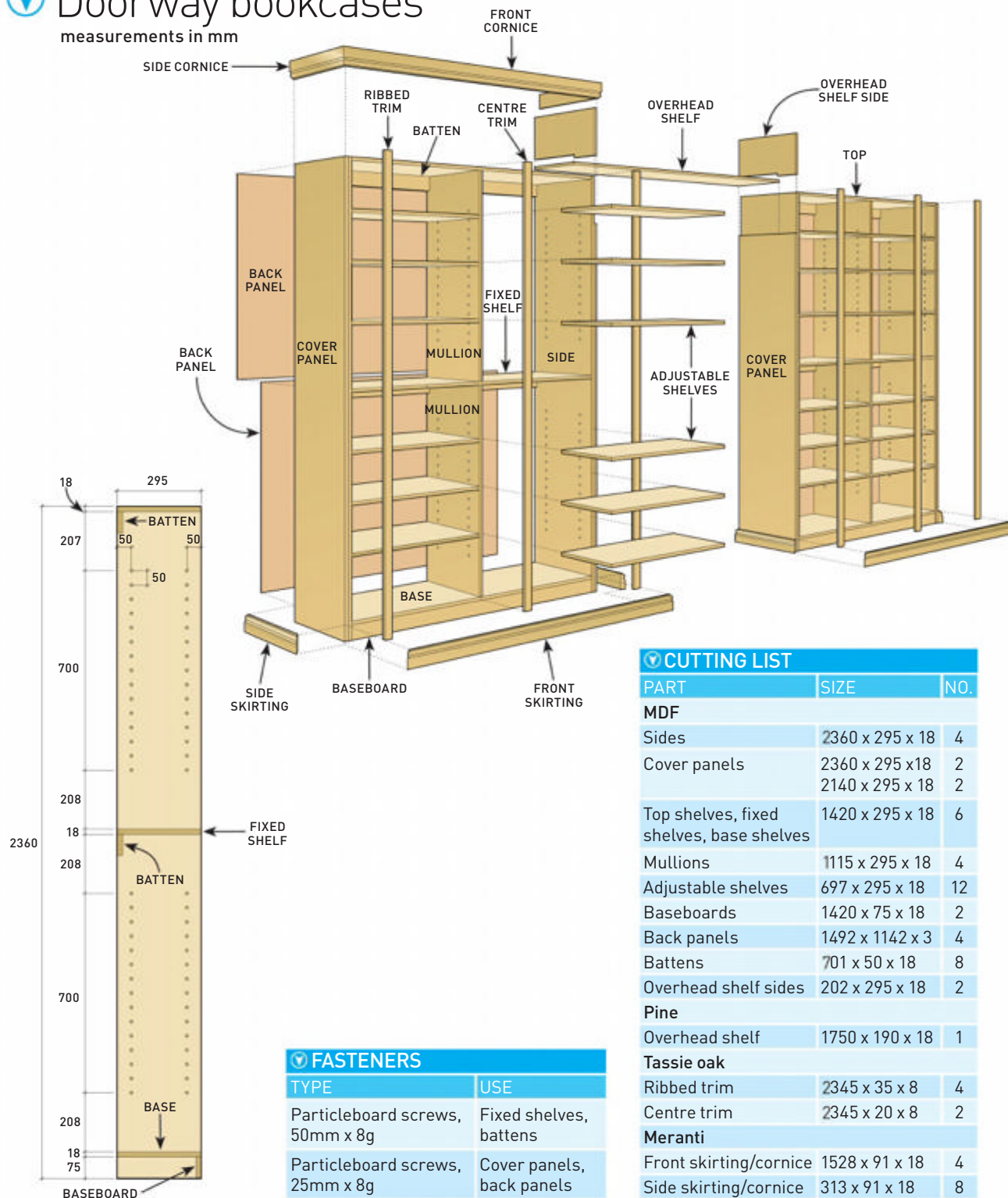


6 Add the trim

With the bookcases in position, drill pilot holes through the battens to secure them to the studs. Use adhesive to secure the skirting and cornice. Cut the trim to fit, apply PVA to the front edges of the sides and mullions, then tape the trim in position until dry. ➤

Doorway bookcases

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
MDF		
Sides	2360 x 295 x 18	4
Cover panels	2360 x 295 x 18	2
	2140 x 295 x 18	2
Top shelves, fixed shelves, base shelves	1420 x 295 x 18	6
Mullions	1115 x 295 x 18	4
Adjustable shelves	697 x 295 x 18	12
Baseboards	1420 x 75 x 18	2
Back panels	1492 x 1142 x 3	4
Battens	701 x 50 x 18	8
Overhead shelf sides	202 x 295 x 18	2
Pine		
Overhead shelf	1750 x 190 x 18	1
Tassie oak		
Ribbed trim	2345 x 35 x 8	4
Centre trim	2345 x 20 x 8	2
Meranti		
Front skirting/cornice	1528 x 91 x 18	4
Side skirting/cornice	313 x 91 x 18	8
Front ceiling quads	1564 x 18 x 18	2
Side ceiling quads	331 x 18 x 18	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Particleboard screws, 50mm x 8g	Fixed shelves, battens
Particleboard screws, 25mm x 8g	Cover panels, back panels
Particleboard screws, 65mm x 8g	Battens

Build durable furniture

For projects such as bookcases to look great and stand the test of time, it's crucial to cut the materials accurately and assemble the pieces using strong joints and appropriate fasteners.

To cut sheet materials accurately and reliably with a circular saw, use the factory edge of an 18mm sheet of MDF as a cutting guide.

Cut a strip about 150mm wide and measure the offset distance from the inside edge of the circular saw base plate to the outer face of the blade.

Clamp the MDF strip this distance away from the cut line and run the circular saw along the factory edge.

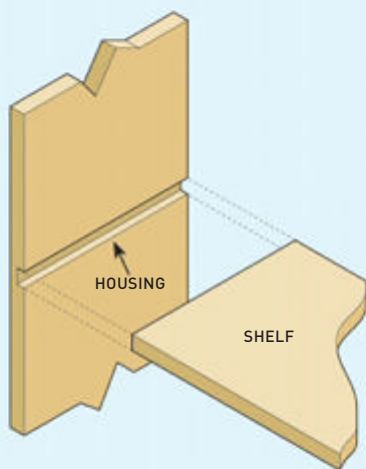
The simplest way to secure the fixed shelf is to use adhesive and screws, but for added strength, or to build a bookcase without adjustable shelves, use one of the methods below.



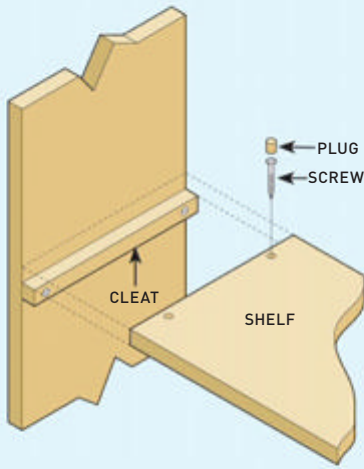
Solid, durable bookcases rely on accurate cutting and construction.

Secure fixed shelves ▼

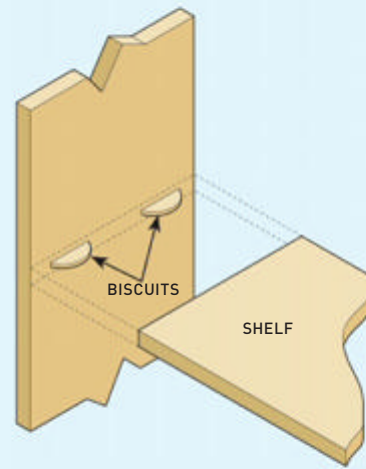
A bookcase should have at least one fixed shelf to add structural strength and rigidity, allowing the remaining shelves to be supported on adjustable shelf pins. The most popular ways to secure them are using a housing joint, a cleat or biscuits.



HOUSING JOINTS utilise a groove cut to one-third the thickness of the timber, generally using a router. This joint is strongest when secured with screws that pull the shelf into the joint, as adhesive does not bond porous end grain as effectively as long-grain surfaces.



CLEATS WITH SCREWS are strips of timber positioned to support a shelf. Securing cleats to the sides, and often to the shelf, with screws allows for some adjustment and the joint is made stronger using adhesive.
TIP Effective construction relies on the cleats being cut accurately.



BISCUIT JOINTS are reasonably strong and hide the joinery for a seamless finish. The slots for the biscuits are made using a biscuit joiner, with at least two biscuits at the end of each shelf.
TIP For a wider shelf, cut more biscuit slots for extra support.

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- 1/3 of post in the ground, 2/3 of post above ground
- For best results, brace the post before you start

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- **Not for structural posts** (piles, retaining walls, etc), or **posts that get a lot of sideways load** (clotheslines, flag poles, large gate posts, etc)
- If in doubt as to whether Post Fix is right for your DIY job, use concrete

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BUILDING TRUST



SUSPENSION SHELVES

Join pine boards with wire rope to make shelving that borrows a design feature from bridge construction

These floating shelves look lightweight, but they are actually very strong and are able to support as much weight as a conventional bookcase.

Wire rope stretches very little under load, allowing the shelves to utilise similar design principles to those used in suspension bridges.

Secured to battens spaced to line up with the wall studs, the shelves are separated by cleats that add strength.

The cleats are attached to the battens using brads and PVA adhesive,

with a single screw and cup washer added to each for a decorative look.

The shelves get narrower as they go up but can also be left the same width. For this project, the front lower edges were chamfered using a router, but they could be left square instead.

Cut the pine components to size using a mitresaw and the wire rope to length with heavy-duty side cutters or linesman's pliers.

Apply two coats of stain and a clear finish to the shelves, battens and cleats before assembly.

Using wire rope

To suspend these shelves, you'll need two lengths of 3.2mm stainless steel balustrade wire, which is readily available from hardware stores.

Balustrade wire can be bought by the metre, and each piece needs to be at least 2100mm long. To be on the safe side, buy 5m of wire.

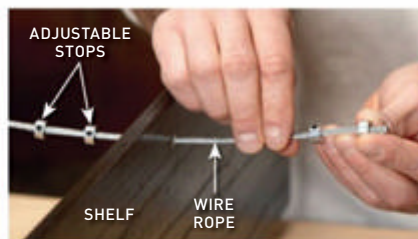
The wire is threaded through the shelf holes, with adjustable stops added to both sides of each shelf to provide support. Leave a tail at the base and cut it off at the end. ➤

Anchoring the wire rope

Thread the wire rope through the shelves, then use a 25mm Forstner bit to make recesses for 20 x 5mm washers and anchor the wire. **TIP** Some adjustable stops have a slot so they can be secured after the wire has been threaded.



1 SECURE the top cleats 5mm from the end of the battens with adhesive and brads. Use a 4mm twist bit to drill a hole for the wire through each cleat and batten at a 45° angle.



2 THREAD the wire rope through the shelf holes, adding adjustable stops for both sides of each shelf as you go. Slide the stops into position against the shelves and secure with an Allen key.



3 ANCHOR the wire by drilling two recesses in each batten behind the angled holes. Loop the wire, secure with a screw and washer, then fill the recesses with epoxy adhesive.

TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$318

TOOLS MITRESAW,
DRILL, ROUTER

Materials

Pine	\$119
7 x 7 wire rope	\$14
4mm adjustable stops	\$110
Screws	\$13
8g cup washers	\$3
Flat washers	\$1
Brads	\$2
PVA adhesive	\$5
Epoxy adhesive	\$6
120 grit abrasive paper	\$1
Stain	\$15
Clear finish	\$29
TOTAL	\$318

Eye-catching and easy to build, these wall-hung shelves are a lot stronger than they look.

▼ Make the shelves



1 Prepare the shelves

Use a 4mm twist bit to drill holes for the wire rope through each shelf, 350mm in from the ends and 25mm from the front edge. Apply masking tape to improve the visibility of the setout marks, then position the top shelf on the battens, 279mm in from each end, and secure with brads.



2 Assemble the unit

Secure a pair of cleats to the battens under the top shelf with PVA adhesive and brads, then attach the next shelf to the cleats using brads. Continue attaching cleats to the battens and shelves to the cleats in order, finishing with the base cleats under the last shelf.



3 Reinforce the joints

Turn the shelves over and use a try or combination square to check all joints are 90°. Drill pilot holes to drive screws into the shelves through the battens. Turn the shelves right way up to drive a screw with a cup washer through the centre of each cleat.

TIP Thread the wire before drilling.



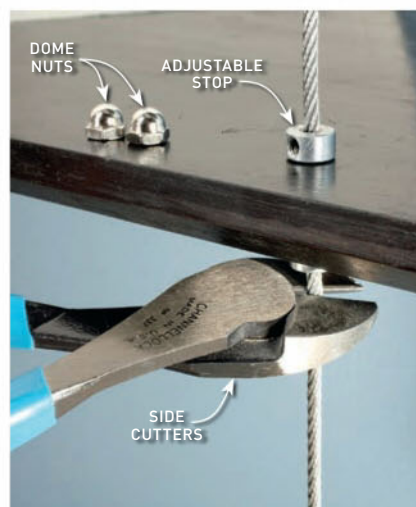
4 Mount the shelving

Cut two temporary support blocks from scrap 90 x 45mm timber and position the shelves against the wall. Find the stud locations, mark with tape and drive a screw through the top of one batten into the wall. Check the shelves are level, securing the battens with three screws in each.



5 Tension the cables

Pull the wire rope tight using an offcut of timber as a tensioning lever. Use a torpedo level to check the shelves for level, adjusting as needed. Use an Allen key to tighten the grub screw in each adjustable stop, locking the stops firmly in position above and below each of the shelves.

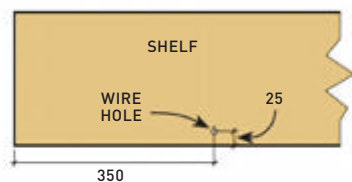
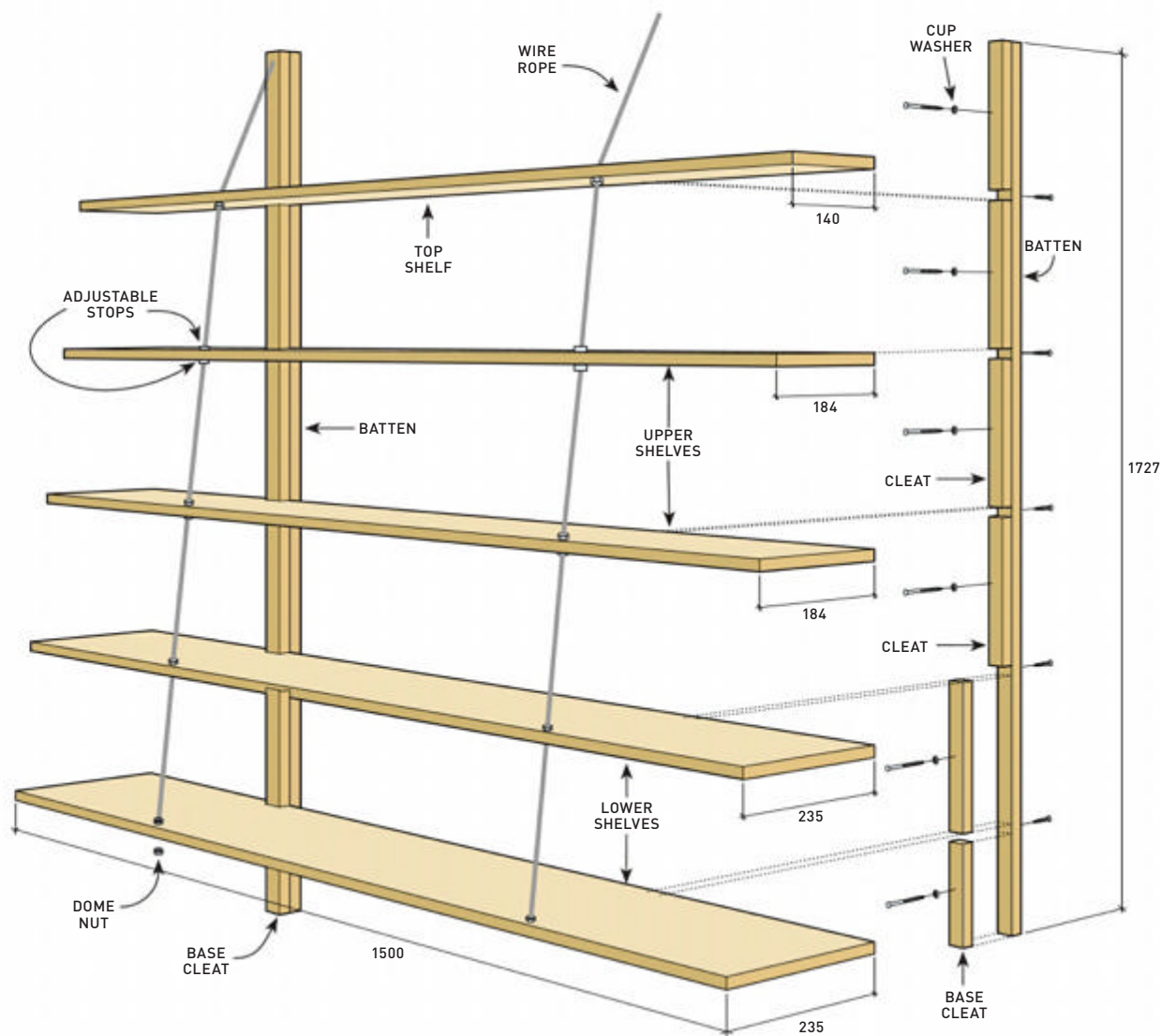


6 Add the dome nuts

Use a pair of heavy-duty side cutters or linesman's pliers to cut the wire rope to length. Leave about 5mm of wire protruding below the adjustable stop under the base shelf, then cap the cut end for safety by attaching a dome nut over it using hot-melt glue or silicone.

Suspension shelves

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Pine		
Top shelf	1500 x 140 x 19	1
Upper shelves	1500 x 184 x 19	2
Lower shelves	1500 x 235 x 19	2
Battens	1727 x 42 x 19	2
Cleats	285 x 30 x 19	10
Base cleats	195 x 30 x 19	2

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Brads, 25 x 1.5mm	Cleats
Particleboard screws, 40mm x 8g	Battens
Particleboard screws, 75mm x 8g	Battens
Particleboard screws, 18mm x 8g	Wire rope anchor
Dome nuts, 5mm	Base shelf

~~SHOULDA~~

~~WOULDA~~

~~COULDA~~

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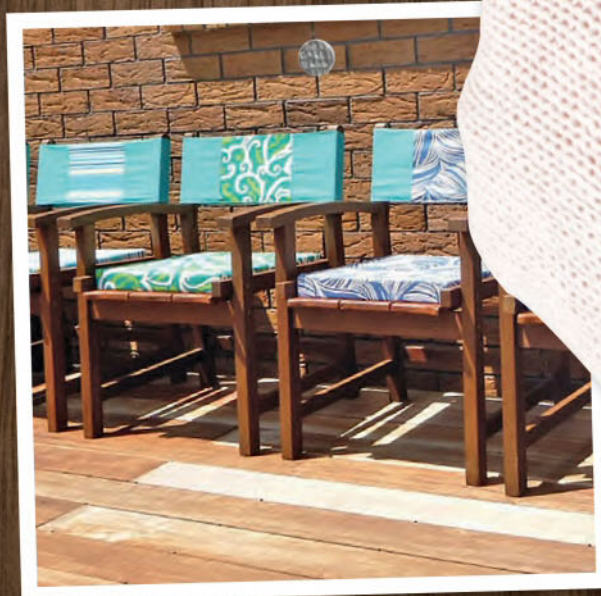
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FOR THE DOER™



Readers' projects

Be inspired by the work of these DIYers, from building a bed to designing a watertight letterbox



Fold-up workbench

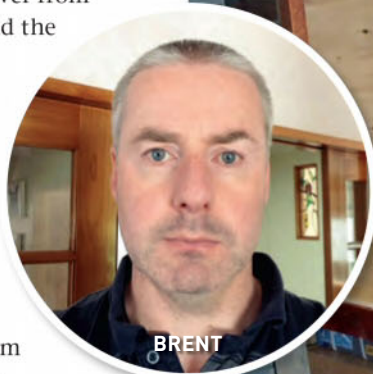
Handyman reader Brent Adcock crafted an impressive foldaway workbench for next to nothing by salvaging materials discarded from building sites for his project.

He used boards left over from roof construction to build the main frame, with the backing of the bench made from salvaged flooring materials.

The benchtop and doors are framed with roofing batten offcuts, while the plywood used for the doors and work surface were recycled from a discarded packing crate.

For the legs, Brent used dressed all round (DAR) timber that had been concrete formwork in a past life.

Even the offcuts weren't wasted, as he transformed the scraps into a rolling box for storing his power tools.



BRENT



Recycled material was given a new role as an organised workspace.



The workbench folds up when not in use to save space and protect tools.



Wheels make it easy to slide the tool drawer out for use or back in for storage.



Before



After

Removing the rose garden made room for a cubbyhouse and trampoline.

Private playground

Handyman reader Craig Johnson and his wife wanted their children to have a play area in the backyard, so they decided to give up the struggling rose garden to make space.

After removing the fence and digging up the flowers, the couple marked out their plans, which included a sandpit.

The area was levelled, trenches were dug and limestone blocks laid for the walls and sandpit.

Craig hired a compactor and prepared the crushed rock base before laying artificial turf, then lining and filling the pit with sand.

In the back corner of the yard, the couple laid 500mm pavers and covered them with rubber mats to create a safe base for the trampoline.

The playground was finished off with a cubbyhouse, which took nearly a day to assemble.

Craig says that the space is a huge success with the children.

'They love their new area, and it is easy to sit under the pergola next to it and watch them play.' ➤



CRAIG AND HIS KIDS



Before



After

Laying artificial turf provided the kids with a safe space to play all year round.

Deluxe mailbox

Subscriber Rob Middenway needed a new letterbox that would be watertight in rainstorms and also big enough to fit his copy of *Handyman*.

He settled on a rectangular design made out of exterior ply, trimmed with offcuts of Tasmanian oak, and featuring a sloping mini orb roof.

A plastic chopping board was used for the floor, with the opening acting as a drain. It was also covered in fly mesh to keep out creepy-crawlies.

The mail slot is 25mm high and the width of the box, with a 30mm wide sloping aluminium strip at the front to drain water. ➤



ROB

Brass hinges and screws were used to secure the top.

The house numbers were cut from scraps of timber.

A CUT ABOVE

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With Tool Blox, the clever new storage system from Ryobi, you can assemble new units as the need arises. The units lock together to create a modular system and you can even add wheels to make Tool Blox mobile.



Beautifully crafted, the bed has created a demand to build more.

Pallet bed

As his daughter and her partner were unable to find a reasonably priced new bed, *Handyman* reader Graham Schleicher agreed to take on the challenge of building them a king-sized one from scratch.

A fan of recycling timber, he knew old pallets would get the job done.

'Old timber pallets could easily be turned into an appealing bed base and headboard rather than just ending up as waste,' he says.

Graham designed the bed so it could be dismantled and moved around easily, and also perforated the mattress base for ventilation.

The new bed turned out to be such a hit with his daughter, her husband and their friends that he has now been asked to build more. ➤



GRAHAM



Holes were cut in the bed base for ventilation.



An artistic eye spotted the potential of old timber pallets.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF

Handyman

ON SALE
4 MAY

Kerb appeal

Add a fence, paint the paving and replant the front garden. We show you how to transform your facade with easy makeovers.

Choosing colours

It can be tricky selecting paint, but we share tips from the pros on how to narrow it down.

PLUS Expert techniques for precision painting.

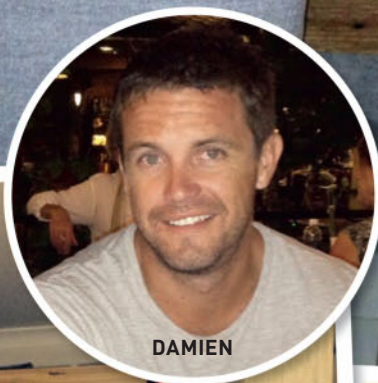
DIY disasters

When people DIY, they usually get great results, but sometimes hilarious things can happen.

We share some very funny stories of DIY gone wrong.



In the dining room, the large table now has pride of place.



DAMIEN



Due to its weight, the frame had to be moved into position separately.



The tabletop was made of recycled boards that were edge-laminated.

Top table

Handyman reader Damien Ryan's girlfriend gave him the difficult task of building her a 10-seater dining table in time for Christmas.

He didn't make the deadline but did deliver a beautiful piece of furniture for future family gatherings.

After consulting with his uncle, who is a cabinet-maker, Damien decided on a design. He then tried to source reclaimed oak but had to settle for a different kind of timber.

'In the end, I went with recycled blackbutt. I'm glad I did, as it was half the price and I surprised myself with the end result,' he says.

Transporting the 200kg of timber back home turned out to be a tricky task and resulted in a permanent bend in the roof rack of the car.

Damien used old power poles to make the table legs and filled any holes or cracks with resin.

Neighbours pitched in to help him with all the heavy lifting and a removable top made it possible to carry the oiled and waxed table inside once it was completed.

Deckchair facelift

Handyman reader James Young was very impressed when his wife Hwaja transformed some old deckchairs into a colourful outdoor setting.

'The chairs were probably about 10 years old and the canvas webbing had taken a real beating after we took on a chewy dog,' he says.

The kwila frames were still in good condition, so Hwaja stripped, sanded and oiled them. She made new seat slats using leftover kwila decking.

She then bought foam rubber swabs and bright, patterned outdoor material and made the cushions and the matching backrests.



Before



HWAJA



After

With seat slats made from kwila deck timber, the chairs are made sturdier.

WIN
\$300

CASH FOR DIY

We love to share what our readers are working on, whether it's building a deck, revamping a room, landscaping the yard or making furniture. No project is too big or too small, and the more unusual the better.

Send us photos of your DIY project for your chance to win \$300 and have it published in *Handyman*. Take high-resolution before and after pics, plus one of yourself, then submit them at handymanmagazine.co.nz.

Timber planter

Build a self-watering raised bed from treated pine to grow salad greens

Everyone loves to grow fresh salad greens, tomatoes and herbs. But backyard crops need regular water to thrive. Too much or too little can result in problems like rot, wilt and split fruit.

A weekend away can be enough to kill off a thriving vegie patch if there's no-one around to do the watering.

To avoid the problem of withered crops, build these self-watering timber planters and use them to grow edibles.

Not only do they look good, but they also keep animals at bay and you can leave them for weeks on end without having to worry about water.

How they work

These self-watering planters are also called sub-irrigated planters, or SIPS, because they allow the plants to sip water whenever they want.

Built as a box with posts and a floor attached to joists, the timber used is H3 treated pine, as it's long lasting for outdoor use in exposed situations above ground.

Cut lengths of 70 x 35mm timber in half using a circular saw and fence guide to make the posts.

When the box is ready, add a pond liner to retain water, then position the socked agricultural pipe and fill with soil mix. The secret to the success of these raised beds lies in the use of the socked agricultural pipe.

Once you fill the agricultural pipe reservoirs, they allow air to circulate and water to wick up to the roots of the plants whenever needed.

Watering plants from below means the roots stay moist and there's less evaporation, so you don't need to water as much.

TIP The clear plastic tube allows any overflow water to drain away. ➤

Garden saver ▼

Here are the top reasons to build a planter box for growing edibles.

- 1 It saves your back and knees.
- 2 You'll have fewer weeds.
- 3 The simple sub-irrigation system saves water.
- 4 Have fresh food year-round.
- 5 You can create the soil mix.
- 6 Crops are safer from animals.
- 7 It can go in a yard or on a deck.



TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$359

TOOLS MITRESAW
DRILL, CIRCULAR SAW,
STAPLE GUN

Planting a raised bed

To set up and maintain the raised garden bed, follow these guidelines. And for more great ideas on using sub-irrigated planters (SIPS), visit insideurbangreen.org.

CHOOSE a spot that gets at least six hours of sun each day. If a planter is against a wall, you can get by with less sun because of reflected heat.

LINE the planter with a rubber pond liner to prolong the life of the treated pine and prevent chemicals leaching into the soil.

USE a light, fluffy soil mix that retains moisture without becoming compacted or waterlogged. Improve the soil mix with perlite. It forms spaces so water moves freely through the root system.

MULCH the planters to keep weeds down and slow evaporation.

TIP Perlite is ideal for use in propagation, hydroponics and container gardens.

Perlite Rootmix,
about \$9 for 5L.
egmontcommercial.co.nz



▼ Build the planter



1 Build the box ends

Position the end boards on a level workbench, aligning them with the corner to keep the assembly square. Lay three posts across the boards, one on each end and one in the centre, securing each post with two screws into each board.



2 Make the box sides

Position and clamp the side boards on a level workbench, aligning them with the corner to keep the assembly square. Mark the post locations at 600 and 1200mm from one end. Position and secure each post with two screws into each board.



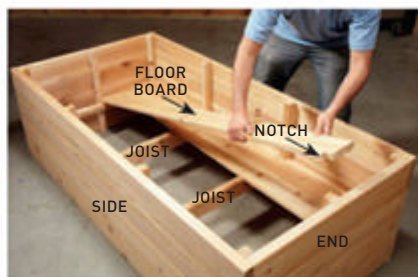
3 Assemble the box

Stand up the ends and sides on a level surface and align the corners, positioning the ends in between the sides. Clamp each corner and measure the diagonals to check for square, then secure the corner posts to the sides using screws.



4 Mark the joists

Cut a timber block to 340mm long to use as a flooring depth guide. Position the block against the side of each post inside the box and mark the top of each joist and floor cleat on the sides of the posts using a carpenter's pencil.



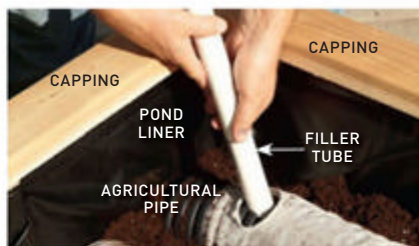
5 Secure the floor

Attach the floor cleats to the end posts then secure the joists to the side posts using screws. Position the floor boards hard against the posts and mark the notches to be cut out with a jigsaw. Lay the flooring and secure to the joists with decking screws.



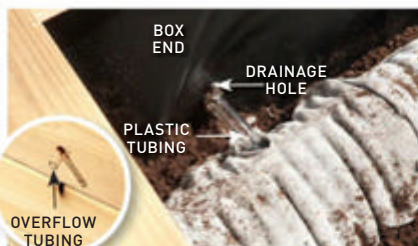
6 Attach the pond liner

Lay the pond liner inside the box, smoothing it across the floor. Fold the liner neatly at the corners and secure it around the inside top of the box using staples. Trim off any excess liner flush with the top of the box using scissors or a utility knife.



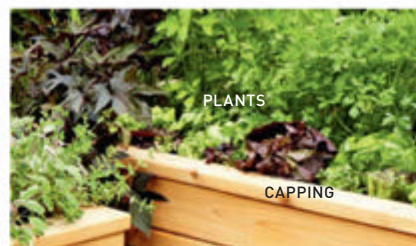
7 Add the agricultural pipe

Secure the capping with screws, then evenly space three lengths of agricultural pipe in the box. Wedge the ends tightly against the box and pack soil mix around the pipes to keep them straight. Cut a hole at one end of an outside pipe for the PVC filler tube.



8 Install the overflow tubing

Drill a 12mm diameter hole in the end of the planter box opposite the filler tube just above the height of the agricultural pipe. Cut a hole in the top of the pipe next to the box hole and position 12mm tubing from the agricultural pipe to the drainage hole.

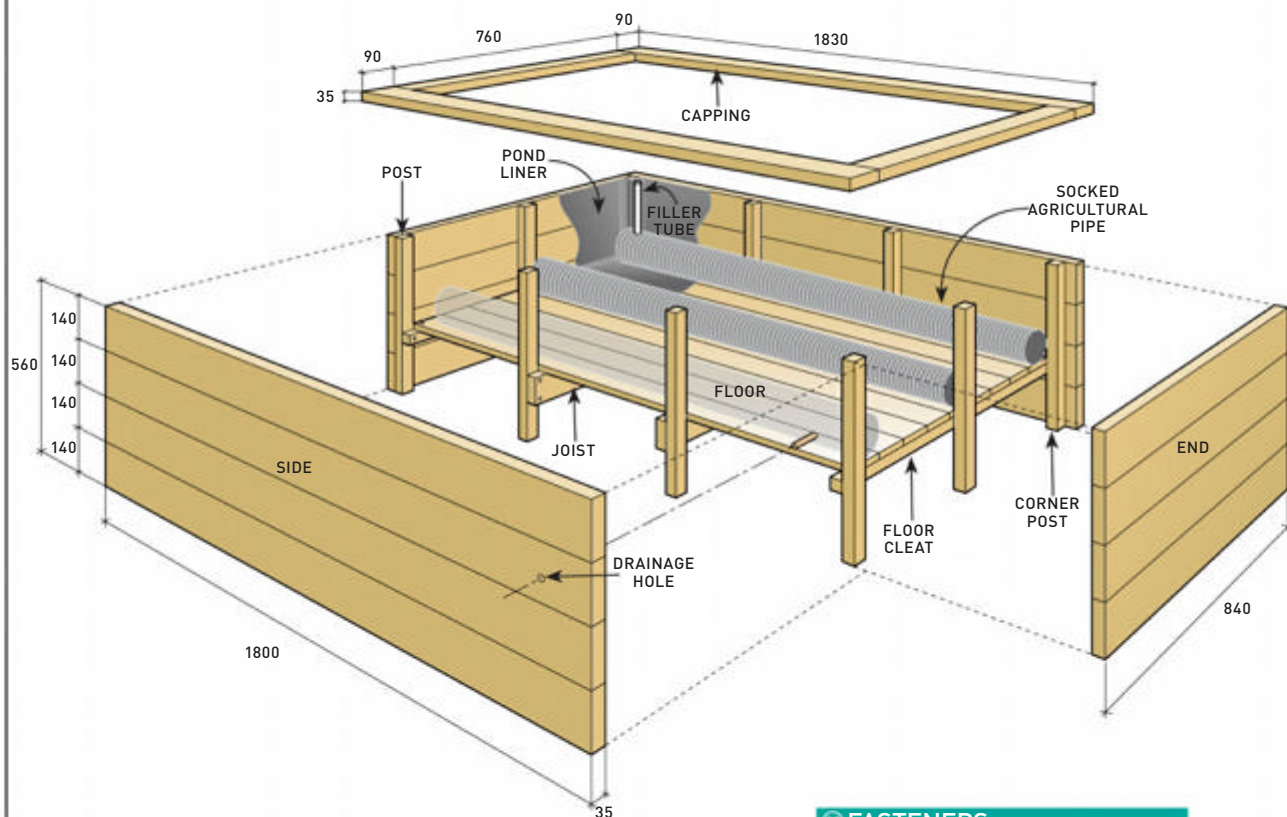


9 Fill with soil and plants

Blend soil in a wheelbarrow to make a lightweight mix. Shovel the soil into the planter, finishing 25mm below the capping, then fill the pipes with water until it overflows. Add the plants and mulch, giving the soil surface an initial water.

Self-watering planter

measurements in mm



Materials

Treated pine	\$180
Decking	\$50
Stainless steel decking screws	\$25
Galvanised bugle screws	\$8
Socked agricultural pipe	\$37
PVC pipe	\$2
Pond liner	\$40
Plastic tube	\$1
Timber preservative	\$16
TOTAL	\$359

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised bugle screws, 50mm x 8g	Posts, joists, floor cleats and capping
Stainless steel decking screws, 40mm x 8g	Decking
Galvanised staples	Pond liner

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
H3 Treated Pine		
Ends	840 x 140 x 35	8
Sides	1800 x 140 x 35	8
Floor	1720 x 90 x 22	9
End caps	760 x 90 x 35	2
Side caps	1830 x 90 x 35	2
Joists	840 x 90 x 35	2
Floor cleats	840 x 35 x 33	2
Posts	560 x 35 x 33	10



Plant a herb pot

Turn a terracotta strawberry planter into a miniature edible garden for a patio

Strawberry planters are tall containers with holes around the sides that feature protruding cups to support the plants.

They're ideal for a selection of culinary herbs, as trailing varieties can be planted in the side holes and plants with a more compact habit can be grown in the top of the pot.

But while these tall planters make growing and harvesting herbs easy, water can be distributed unevenly, resulting in some plants drying out and others becoming waterlogged.

To keep herbs in a strawberry pot well hydrated, simply include a central core of fine gravel at planting time to help improve drainage.

What you need

- Strawberry pot
- PVC pipe or cardboard tube
- Vegetable and herb potting mix
- Assorted herbs
- Gravel or small stones
- Liquid seaweed solution



1 Prepare the pot

Position an offcut of PVC pipe or a long cardboard tube in the centre of the strawberry pot. Hold the pipe steady on the base of the pot, then fill around it with potting mix as far as the first planting holes.



2 Plant the herbs

Add trailing varieties to the side holes of the pot, pushing the herbs through from the inside and firming the potting mix around them. Work your way up, adding plants and potting mix until you reach the top.



3 Add the gravel

Fill the pipe with gravel to the level of the potting mix, then ease out the pipe, leaving the core of gravel behind. Make planting holes to add herbs to the top of the pot, watering in well with seaweed solution.



Trailing varieties like oregano and thyme are great for tiered herb pots.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

Take the DIY option for your home improvement projects by choosing the best tools and equipment from our market round-up



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Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE



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Easter Family Fun Day – Saturday 4th April, from 10am

- D.I.Y. for kids and adults*

Free entertainment

- Bouncy castle 10am – 2pm
- Easter egg hunt
- Face painter 11am – 1pm
- Decorate Easter eggs
- Colouring competition
- Easter Bunny in store



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Prepare beds for winter veg

Harvest the last of the summer crops and get ready to plant cool-weather edibles

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

As we reluctantly bid goodbye to the golden weather, it's time to pick the last of the summer produce and plant the new autumn and winter crops.

A bit of work done in the garden now will ensure you have a good harvest during the cooler months.

Here's how to sow and grow veggies, greens and herbs for fresh ingredients to add to soups, stews and more. ➤

SWISS CHARD
FLAMINGO

LETTUCE
'RAVIT'



1 Harvest the crops

The first job is to pick all of the remaining crops, and either enjoy them now or preserve them for future use. You can make sauce from excess tomatoes, or oven-dry them.



Freeze surplus basil by tearing the leaves, putting them in ice-cube trays and covering with water.

The frozen leaves can be used in winter soups and stews simply by adding the ice-cube to the pot with the other ingredients.

Trim herbs such as oregano and marjoram, then hang the clippings in a warm, dry spot indoors. Store the dried leaves in an airtight container.

2 Prepare the patch

Remove all the finished plants from the vegetable garden and put them on the compost heap.

Pull up any weeds, making sure you get the roots as well.

Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack by insects and diseases.

Dig the whole patch with a fork or spade, incorporating any remaining mulch into the soil.

Break up the clods until you have a nice crumbly soil.



Don't leave any roots behind when you're digging up weeds.



Keep soil in great shape and promote healthy growth with liquid seaweed.

3 Test the soil pH

The majority of vegetables like a soil with a pH of about 6.5. And as soil has a tendency to slowly become acidic through fertilising, it is always a good idea to test it every couple of years.

Checking soil pH is easy with a testing kit. If it is too acidic you can rectify it with dolomite, garden lime or a liquid lime.

Make sure you follow the directions on the packet.



Gardener's Mate Soil pH Testing Kit, \$19. horticom.co.nz



5 Water the bed

Give the bed a good watering at least a day before you plant.

This will help the manure and compost to break down and settle prior to you planting seeds or seedlings.



6 Spread with mulch

Adding a mulch, such as sugar cane, lucerne hay or pea straw, conserves moisture by reducing evaporation, prevents weed growth by restricting light and modifies the temperature of the soil by cooling or warming it.

As the mulch breaks down, it adds structure to the soil by supplying it with beneficial organic matter. ➤

4 Condition the soil

Before planting, the soil will need conditioning with mushroom compost, or cow or chicken manure.

Dig the compost or manure lightly into the soil, then rake it, making sure it is crumbly, level and smooth. It will eventually break down, supplying the soil with beneficial organic matter.

Conditioners also encourage earthworms, which break down root mats and open up tunnels for oxygen and water to penetrate the soil.

The plant roots take nutrition from the nitrate-rich mucus that coats these tunnels.

Compost is free and makes a great conditioner, as it helps to regenerate the soil and increases the water-holding capacity by at least 30% as well.

And by recycling organic waste, you're keeping it out of landfill.

Seaweed products are also soil conditioners. Often mistaken for a fertiliser, liquid seaweed promotes growth of beneficial micro-organisms in the soil. This in turn boosts plant health.



Yates Nature's Way Seaweed Booster,
\$19 for 500ml. yates.co.nz



What to plant ▼



BEETROOT



BROAD BEANS



BROCCOLI



CABBAGE



CARROT



CAULIFLOWER



ENDIVE



KALE



LEEK



LETTUCE



ONION



PEAS



SILVERBEET



SPINACH



TURNIP



You'll save money if you use seeds rather than seedlings.

Seedling punnets can be recycled.

Sow the seeds

There is a greater variety of vegies to choose from if you grow them from seed. It's also less expensive, as a packet of 50-100 seeds costs the same as a punnet of 6-12 seedlings.

If you seal and store the packet, you'll have about three years' supply.

Certain vegetables grow better from seed, planted directly where they are to grow, rather than from transplanted seedlings.

Direct-sow broad beans, radish, silverbeet, peas, Asian greens, spinach, parsnip, beetroot and carrot.

You can buy propagating sets to get your seeds off to a good start,

but an even cheaper alternative is to re-use seedling punnets as a DIY propagator or mini greenhouse.

Place plastic wrap or a clear plastic freezer bag over the seed container, then seal it. Remove the plastic when the seeds have germinated.

Cardboard egg cartons make great punnets for large seeds. Fill them with seed-raising mix and plant a seed in each section. When they've germinated, cut out the individual sections and plant them in the ground.

The cardboard will soon break down in the soil and your seedlings won't suffer transplant shock.

Seed tapes, which are strips of soft paper containing evenly spaced seeds, are easy to use and effective. You simply lay the tape in the ground, cover it with soil, then water it.

TIP Water transplanted seedlings with a seaweed concentrate to help prevent transplant shock.



Romberg Bollerbloom Fibre Seedling Pots, \$6 for 36-pack. tuigarden.co.nz



Poppies of remembrance

Sow seeds this month in tribute to the ANZAC troops who landed in Gallipoli 100 years ago

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Red poppies could possibly be the easiest plant to grow, even if you've never grown flowers from seed before and this is your first try.

They are brilliant in a massed display in the garden or in pots, and they flower for a long period.

All you need is sun, protection from heavy winds, and a good quality, free-draining soil or potting mix.

Simply sow the seeds where you want them to grow, lightly cover with soil or potting mix and keep the area moist until germination.

If you like, you can raise them in seed trays and transplant them once they are well established.

As your poppies grow, keep them well fed with regular applications of a liquid fertiliser such as Yates Thrive

Roses & Flowers Liquid Plant Food and Seasol seaweed concentrate.

As flowers finish, pinch them off to encourage more blooms and you'll enjoy an extended display.

Yates Flanders Red Poppy Seeds, about \$4.
yates.co.nz



PICTURE THINKSTOCK



Troops land at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915 to begin the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.



Red poppies adorn war memorials across the country on Poppy Day.

Anzac origins

In early 1915, as the joint units of troops from New Zealand and Australia were being mustered in Egypt prior to the fateful Gallipoli landings, telegraphic signalmen found a convenient way to describe them.

They created an acronym that would end up becoming one of the most powerful and emotive words in the lexicon of our nations, ANZAC.

Soon after, on 25 April 1915, the initial landing at Gallipoli, this term, replacing the clumsy A and NZ Army Corps, was to become an anchor point for everything that these still young nations stood for.

The Anzac legacy was borne from the blood of the fallen and those who survived the horrors of the ill-fated, eight-month battle for Gallipoli.

Since 1916, 25 April has officially been declared as Anzac Day, and this month marks 100 years since the landing at what is now officially known as Anzac Cove in Turkey.

If you were to ask a Kiwi what the emblems of Anzac are they'd likely list a couple of things, after mateship and the strains of the *Last Post* that is.

The iconic lemon squeezer hat is one of the most distinctive images. The red poppy has also increasingly become a stark symbol.

Why the red poppy?

One of the first plants to pop up in the battlefields of France and Belgium during World War I, the red poppy is also not surprisingly known as the Flanders poppy.

The sight of the red flower moved soldier John McCrae to compose *In Flanders Fields*, a poem still widely known today.

In turn, humanitarian Moina Michael was inspired by the poem to always wear a red silk poppy in remembrance of those killed. This symbolic act spread, and soon



the Allied nations adopted the poppy as the commemorative flower for Armistice Day.

By 1940, New Zealand World War II troops were using poppies for remembrance on Anzac Day.

New Zealanders today are well used to volunteers selling poppies on streets throughout the country for the annual Poppy Day appeal.



Grow Asian greens

Create a stir with homegrown leafy vegies full of exotic flavour

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

From Chinese and Vietnamese to Thai and Malaysian, Kiwis love Asian food. Whether it's a stir-fry at home or going out for sushi or yum cha, we just can't get enough.

And the good news for Asian food buffs is that the greens they love to eat, like bok choy, tatsoi and Chinese broccoli or cabbage, are easy to grow.

Plant seeds now and you'll have an organic stir-fry garden in weeks. If space is limited, you can also grow them in pots in a sunny position.

The flowers of all Asian greens are edible and make pretty garnishes.

Not only are they easy to grow, fast to crop and tasty, these greens are good for your health. Rich in folate, vitamins C and K, betacarotene, potassium, magnesium and calcium, they're also low in kilojoules.

Asian greens belong to the Brassicaceae family, along with broccoli, Brussels sprouts and kale.

All members of this plant family, according to considerable research, are reputed to prevent cancer and are potentially anti-inflammatory.

TIP Grow Yates Asian Stir Fry Mix to add to oriental-style salads. ➤



Branch out and create your own stir-fry garden at home.

PICTURE THINKSTOCK



Spring onions

One of the most indispensable stir-fry ingredients, spring onions are easily grown in a sunny spot from seeds or seedlings, in pots and garden beds.

They self-sow easily, so let one of them go to seed to get more plants for free.



McGregor's Galloper F.1. Hybrid Spring Onion Seeds, \$3.
mgregors.co.nz

What to grow ▼

**BOK CHOY**

A fast-growing Asian green with tender and crunchy pale green or white stalks, bok choy is also called Chinese white cabbage and pak choi. Pick it while young or wait about six weeks for it to mature. **USE** in noodle dishes, soups and stir-fries. Add young leaves to salads or steam whole and serve with oyster sauce and sesame oil.

**TATSOI**

The deep-green leaves of tatsoi, or Chinese flat green cabbage, have a slightly nutty flavour. To pick continuously, remove the outside leaves from the rosette separately. **USE** the young leaves in salads to add crunch. Steam the leaves and stalks and season with soy sauce and garlic. Lightly cook in stir-fries or add to soups at the last moment.

**CHOY SUM**

This popular Asian green, also called choi-san and Chinese soup green, has large leaves and delicate tasting stems. Harvest while young or allow it to mature. You can eat the entire plant, including the small yellow flowers. **USE** the stems and leaves in soups. Steam and serve as a side dish or add it to stir-fries.

**CHINESE BROCCOLI**

Known as Chinese kale, kai lan and gai lan, this green produces much smaller flower rosettes than the common broccoli. It is harvested about nine weeks after sowing, just before the flowers start to open. **USE** the whole plant, including the stem, leaves and flowers. Add to stir-fries, or steam and serve with soy sauce and fried garlic as a side.

**CHINESE CABBAGE**

Also called wong bok and nappa cabbage, this variety forms a densely packed head of fine textured and crinkly leaves that are blanched in the centre. There are varieties that are ready for harvest in 10 weeks. **USE** its sweet, delicate tasting leaves as a wrap or base for steaming fish, in coleslaw and Asian salads, or add at the end to soups and stir-fries.

**MUSTARD GREENS**

Mizuna, or Japanese mustard, is a milder-flavoured variety while mibuna is slightly stronger. The large-leaved red mustard is hot, especially the older leaves. Treat them as a cut-and-come-again crop, picking the outer leaves first. **USE** the young leaves to give tang to Asian salads. Put barbecued fish on a bed of raw mustard leaves.



Fast-growing greens like Chinese broccoli crop in just two months.

Sowing seeds

Asian greens grow very easily from seed and transplanted seedlings will often bolt to seed.

■ **SOW** seeds directly where they are to grow.

Choose a position that gets 5-6 hours of sun a day and seedlings will appear in just a few days.

If you sow the seeds too thickly, the seedlings can be thinned and the young leaves used in salad mixes.

■ **SOIL** should be free draining and enriched with manure or compost before planting.

■ **WATER** daily to keep the plants growing quickly and to prevent them bolting to seed.

■ **MULCH** the soil with lucerne hay or pea straw to help retain moisture.

■ **FEED** weekly with a soluble plant food when the seedlings have reached about 100mm high.

■ **HARVEST** while the plants are young. Most Asian greens reach their full size in about eight weeks.

■ **CHECK** for caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly, as they eat the leaves.

Use an insecticide like Yates Nature's Way Insect & Mite Spray (yates.co.nz) or sprinkle Derris Dust on the foliage to deal with the caterpillars.

Snails and slugs will also munch on Asian greens, so use beer traps or environmentally friendly snail bait.



Seasol PowerFeed For Vegies,
\$13 for 600ml. seasol.co.nz



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5

extraordinary
uses for bananas**Attract birds**

Put an overripe banana on a raised platform in the garden, punching a few holes in it to make it accessible to butterflies as well as birds. Remove it at night so you don't attract rats.

Polish leaves

Are the leaves on your indoor plants looking dull or dusty? Wipe down each leaf with the inside of a banana peel to remove the surface dust and replace it with a clean, lustrous shine.

Deter aphids

If aphids attack your roses, bury dried or cut-up banana peels a few centimetres deep around the base of the plant and they'll soon leave. Don't use whole peels as possums can dig them up.

Add to compost

With their high content of potassium and phosphorus, whole bananas and peels are welcome additions to a compost pile. The fruit breaks down especially fast in hot weather.

Feed plants

Bananas are rich in potassium, an important garden nutrient. Dry the peels on screens in winter, grind them up in early spring and use as mulch for new plants, or cut into pieces and use as food.



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